

Hafa Adai!

Issuance of 3rd stimulus payments to begin next week. **PAGE 3**
UOG receives clean audit and low-risk auditee status. **PAGE 7**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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45-year-old woman is missing



By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is searching for a 45-year-old woman who was reported missing since Sunday.

According to DPS public information officer Dre Pangelinan, Julieanna Martin, 45, is still missing from her home in Chinatown as of Sunday.

See MISSING on Page 4

Photo provided by the Department of Public Safety shows the missing woman, Julieanna Martin.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, March 31, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,805	2	7,807
Recovered	7,637	11	7,648
Active	23	2	25
Deaths	134	0	134
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		141,013	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	159	0	159
Traced via Travel Screening	123	0	123
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		26,131*	
Days since last community transmission		15	

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Saipan:	Tinian:	Rota:
Dose 1: 14,632	Dose 1: 913	Dose 1: 944
Dose 2: 10,816	Dose 2: 517	Dose 2: 735

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CPA employees back to 72 hours but...



By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority employees, who are all currently on a 64-

hour work schedule, had eight hours restored yesterday to bring them to 72 hours. But this is conditioned on CPA receiving the federal funds that have

See CPA on Page 4

Commonwealth Ports Authority board vice chair Roman T. Tudela gestures as he explains his position on restoring CPA employees' work hours from the current 64 hours to 72 during a board meeting yesterday in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting classroom at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

FERGIE DE LA TORRE

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



King-Hinds

'Talks to open Saipan to int'l flights this summer ongoing'

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds disclosed yesterday that the

government, airlines, and the hotel industry are in talks right now to aggressively pursue a plan to open up the CNMI to international flights again this summer.

Speaking at the CPA board

meeting yesterday, King-Hinds said the plan is in the works with the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors. When asked for more information during a sepa-

See TALKS on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The president of Palau, along with the U.S. ambassador to his country, visits Taiwan.

PAGE 2



BUSINESS

The Magellan Restaurant of Pacific Island Club Saipan will reopen for Easter Sunday brunch.

PAGE 12



ASIA

The Myanmar military launches more airstrikes, forcing thousands to flee to Thailand.

PAGE 14



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Local

Palau president visits Taiwan despite Chinese pressure

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The president of the Pacific island nation of Palau was visiting Taiwan on Tuesday along with the U.S. ambassador to his country, a show of solidarity as China increases diplomatic, economic and military pressure on Taiwan.

Palau President Surangel Whipps said during a meeting with Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen that he and his delegation "feel like home when we are here."

In her welcoming statement, Tsai noted Whipps was the first foreign leader to visit Taiwan since the beginning of the pandemic and said a travel bubble established between the two

sides would be a "model for safe two-way travel that has been closely watched not just by our own people but also by the entire world."

China has banned its citizens from visiting Palau, but Taiwan has responded by introducing a travel bubble between the two that will allow visitors to avoid being quarantined.

The presence on the trip of the U.S. ambassador to Palau, John Hennessey-Niland, was a further sign of Washington's support for Taiwan, despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations between the two.

China claims Taiwan as its

own territory to be brought under Beijing's control by force if deemed necessary and it has worked to internationally isolate the island.

Taiwan has just 15 formal diplomatic allies but operates a network of trade offices around the world that act as de-facto embassies, including in the United States, Japan and most other major nations.

China has blocked Taiwan's participation in international organizations including the United Nations and sought to scupper the island's relationships with other countries by threatening to withdraw its own diplomatic presence and



AP

Palau President Surangel Whipps, right, and Taiwan's Vice President William Lai, left, attend a ceremony of opening of the Palau-Taiwan Travel Corridor in Taipei, Taiwan, Tuesday, March 30, 2021.

economic support.

In Beijing Tuesday, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying repeated China's opposition to formal exchanges between Taiwan and the U.S.

"We hope the U.S. will pay great attention to China's concerns and act prudently on the issue of Taiwan so as to avoid further damage to China-U.S. relations," Hua told reporters at a daily briefing.

Chinese warplanes have increasingly been entering Taiwan's southern airspace, with 10 aircraft reporting flying through the area on Monday. China has also protested over an agreement to boost cooperation between the U.S. and Taiwanese coast guards that follows visits by U.S. Cabinet officials to Taiwan and new sales of warplanes and other defensive equipment.

Beijing severed direct con-

tacts with Taiwan's government after the election of Tsai and her independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party administration in 2016. Tsai was reelected last year to a second four-year term.

Taiwan still enjoys strong U.S. support, however, and the Trump administration last year sent the highest-level U.S. government delegation since the U.S. switched relations from Taipei to Beijing in 1979.

LET'S VACCINATE, CNMI!

3/22/2021

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Phase 1b

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Now Vaccinating

Phase 2

- Individuals 16 years of age and older (Saipan)
- Individuals 18 years of age and older (Rota & Tinian)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eliceo D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Monday, April 5, 2021, 9:30AM** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Google Meet (<https://meet.google.com/ait-aqbq-cdf>) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance. Google Meet access code may change. Please call DCRM for an update.

AGENDA

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
- EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW**
 - CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2000-X-142-A1
Project: ROUTE 35 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
Applicant: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
The Department of Public Works is proposing to improve 0.78 mile length of Route 35 (Tun Herman Pan) Road which includes hazard elimination such as inclusion of guardrails, traffic signs, drainage improvements, and pavement rehabilitation.
 - Agencies' Discussion
- OTHER MATTERS**
- ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

- Register **ONLINE** at www.vaccinatecnmi.com
- Register over the **PHONE** by calling **(670) 682-SHOT/(7468)**
- Saipan **ON-SITE** registration is open for persons **55 YEARS+**



The number utilized by the VaccinateCNMI Call center is proudly sponsored by IT&E through community partnership with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.

This project is supported by Grant No. NH231IP922587 from the HHS/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). These contents are solely the responsibility of the CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.



Issuance of 3rd stimulus payments to begin next week

The Department of Finance announced yesterday that it anticipates the first batch of direct deposit payments to be released by the end of next week, followed by the processing of paper checks.

The 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit and Third Economic Impact Payments Plan has been submitted by the Division of Revenue & Taxation for approval by U.S. Treasury. According to the plan, U.S. Treasury will transfer approximately \$85 million to the Commonwealth within three business days upon approval of the plan. This is a required process by the U.S. Treasury for disbursement of the stimulus payments.

DRT will process initial stimulus payments based on 2019 income tax returns. Additional payments will then be issued based on 2020 income tax returns that are submitted and processed by August 15, 2021, 90 days after the filing deadline of May 17, 2021. If you do not receive your maximum third round payment in 2021, you may be eligible to claim the 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit when you file your 2021 income tax return in 2022.

"We appreciate the community's patience as the Department of Finance expeditiously processes this new round of stimulus payments for our community," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "We are grateful to the President and the U.S. Congress for enacting this important legislation and the U.S. Treasury for their guidance, so that we can get this much needed assistance for our people. ... We anticipate another smooth delivery of stimulus checks for our people, and we continue to ask for patience. The checks will be disbursed once the funds are on island and processed."

For more general information on eligibility and calculation of your third stimulus payment, visit <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments>.

the DOF website at www.dof.gov.mp and select "Register for ACH."

Taxpayers who have successfully received a direct

deposit in the second stimulus payment do not have to re-register. DRT will use all valid bank information received from the second

stimulus payment for the third round of payments, including off-island banks.

All invalid bank information (i.e., closed accounts,

incorrect account/routing number) have been removed from our database. Taxpayers who provided invalid bank information are en-

couraged to re-register again on the portal.

The Stimulus Portal is now limited to local banks only for new registrations. (PR)



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2017 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT

SALE PRICE **\$13,995**

38,494 MILES • STK: 7R235 • KBB: \$17,146

2017 MAZDA CX-3 GT AWD

SALE PRICE **\$16,995**

18,475 MILES • STK: 7P295 • KBB: \$18,470

2016 NISSAN 370Z NISMO

SOLD

SALE PRICE **\$33,995**

4,715 MILES • STK: 20P312A • KBB: \$33,475

2016 TOYOTA PRIUS C

SALE PRICE **\$14,995**

48,814 MILES • STK: 20D134A • KBB: \$16,585

2015 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT

SALE PRICE **\$16,995**

32,105 MILES • STK: 15P302 • KBB: \$17,754

2020 TOYOTA TACOMA SR 4WD

SOLD

SALE PRICE **\$35,995**

8,175 MILES • STK: 20C003 • KBB: \$36,485

2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER

SALE PRICE **\$14,995**

39,217 MILES • STK: 20H068-A • KBB: \$15,830

2018 HONDA CIVIC EXT

SALE PRICE **\$17,995**

10,640 MILES • STK: 18HS946 • KBB: \$20,609

2017 TOYOTA LAND CRUISER 4WD

SALE PRICE **\$69,995**

28,046 MILES • STK: 17P310 • KBB: \$72,425

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT

SALE PRICE **\$14,995**

7,910 MILES • STK: 8HS875 • KBB: \$19,496

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Stimulus portal information

All taxpayers who have yet to register and submit bank information are encouraged to use the Stimulus Portal on



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Torres lays out shortage of construction workers before Congress

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres explicitly laid out before U.S. Congress the CNMI's challenge in addressing the CNMI's shortage of construction workers, particularly at this time when so many infrastructure projects are in the pipeline.

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Torres said he and all governors in insular areas had a meeting last Thursday at 12am with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who presided over a Natural Resources Committee hearing.

In that hearing, Torres and other

governors had the opportunity to tell Congress how the Biden administration's Build Back Better Plan would benefit the CNMI and other U.S. territories.

The governor said he underscored at that meeting the importance of addressing the construction workers' issue as a priority.

He said he looks forward to working with the Northern Marianas Technical Institute in pushing hard to address the shortfall in the construction workforce.

"We have a lot of infrastructure here on the island that need to be upgraded," said the governor, citing Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

projects.

He also mentioned that the Northern Marianas College has close to \$100 million for various projects, while the Public School System will be getting more than \$250 million for projects.

On road projects, there is the Route 36 project; the Beach Road project that will be kicking off in the next couple of months; the Airport Road project that they want to resurface; and the Industry Drive project.

Torres said with all those road projects that the administration needs to fix, the shortage of construction workers is an issue.

"But we are pushing hard on getting on more construction workers here, and especially working with

NMTI in pushing that part of the workforce that we need," the governor said.

Woman pleads guilty to assault

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
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REPORTER

A woman, who was arrested for allegedly threatening a man with a box cutter, has pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon at a change of plea hearing before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo last March 26.

Yaping She was charged with assault, assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace, but the assault and disturbing the peace charges were later dropped as part of the plea deal.

Govendo sentenced She to 10 years' imprisonment, all suspended except for 180 days, with 156 days for time served. That leaves her with just 24 more days to serve in prison. She will be placed on supervised probation for two years upon her release.

She was also ordered to pay court cost in the amount of \$100 and pro-

bation fee in the amount of \$240 before her probation expires. She was ordered to report to the Office of Adult Probation on April 22, 2021.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the victim was outside a massage parlor in October 2020 when he saw She walking toward him. The victim said She, who was holding a yellow box cutter in her right hand, told him that she was going to cut him. He said She then lunged with the box cutter in his direction multiple times. The victim said She also pulled her mask down and threatened to spit on him. Two responding police officers repeatedly told She to drop the box cutter. Police said the defendant turned toward the officers and started cussing at them. One of the officers then drew his firearm, but pointed it at the ground, and instructed her again to put the box cutter down. When she finally did, She was arrested.

Scheduled water service interruption in As Matuis

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Monday, April 5, 2021, from 9am to 12pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in As Matuis.

CUC's contractor for the S-2 Sew-

er Lift Station Rehabilitation project, Hong Ye Construction, will be re-tapping a new line to the existing water distribution line for the project. Water service to the affected area will resume soon after.

CUC continues to work diligently

to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporationf>). (PR)

CPA

From Page 1

been allocated to it.

CPA's board of directors conditionally approved yesterday the restoration of eight hours to the work schedule of CPA employees, with all five directors present at the meeting agreeing to the move.

As to the full restoration of 80 hours, that's not possible yet, according to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said in a later interview. "I don't think that we'd be able to go back to 80 hours unless the tourism industry gets back online," she said.

King-Hinds, vice chair Roman T. Tudela, and directors Barrie C. Toves, Pete P. Reyes, and Joseph M. Diaz were present at the meeting held at the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting classroom at the Airport Fire Station of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Thomas P. Villagomez and Ramon A. Tebuteb were absent.

In an interview during a break in the board's committee meeting, King-Hinds said she asked CPA management to look at their financial situation and consider restoring some of the employees' work hours, in light of the central government going back to 80-hour work schedule.

She said she basically asked CPA management to compile all their different funding sources and their projected revenues to see if it would be possible to restore the eight work hours.

She said this is assuming that they can still continue the rent abatement and airline incentives as it relates to payment in landing fees and be able to operate using federal funds to pay their debt or operations, or utilities and the personnel.

King-Hinds said that based on their comptroller's analysis, they are able to do the 72 hours assuming that they get all these funds that have been allocated to CPA under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security

Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, and the American Rescue Plan.

CPA received \$22 million from the CARES Act and the agency has been drawing down from that fund, King-Hinds said. She said they're also getting \$5.6 million from CRRSA and \$90 million from the American Rescue Plan.

"So my goal...from a fiscal perspective is to restore at a minimal an additional eight hours without compromising our ability to operate under current collections using those funds and current discounts that we're giving for the next two years," King-Hinds said.

Based on the analysis, King-Hinds said, they can go two more fiscal years using those funds to be able to service their debt, pay their personnel, and operate.

Before the voting to restore the conditional 72 hours during CPA's Committee on Financial Affairs meeting yesterday, King-Hinds said she is not recommending that they go back to the full 80 hours because the revenue does not support it.

King-Hinds said but if they can afford to at least increase hours by an additional eight, that would not economically jeopardize their ability to maintain and operate for the next two fiscal years.

"I would like the board to consider the increase and add that additional eight hours to provide some sort of relief," she said.

Tudela said he fully agrees with King-Hinds. "While we give discount to our tenants, which is fine because there is a good reason for that, but at the same time, if we have the money, I would support the lifting of the 16 hours. And for now, at least to go on 72 hours," Tudela said.

Toves said he supports the intention of King-Hinds and Tudela, but he has a concern that majority of CPA employees on Rota would not agree. This is because majority of Rota CPA employees are entitled to Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and they

get more from funding assistance from PUA when they are on austerity.

"I think the action by the board to restore back at least eight hours is going to benefit those that are not eligible or qualified to receive unemployment assistance," Toves said.

Toves said that, while he wants to restore some normalcy to employees' work hours, doing so is going to punish people who are receiving more PUA funds while they are on austerity than what they are going to be earning when they return back.

As to the option of allowing employees who are getting PUA to remain on 64 hours, while those not eligible for PUA will get 72 hours, CPA legal counsel Robert T. Torres said the policy should be applied across the board.

Tudela agreed with Torres.

"We have to be uniform. Whether we do it or not, we cannot distinguish who gets what, who gets more, who gets less," Tudela said.

After explaining the federal funding sources, CPA comptroller Skye L. Aldan recommended that the restoration of eight hours be approved only when CPA already receives its American Rescue Plan allocation.

King-Hinds said she wants to follow Aldan's recommendation. "I don't like to count my chickens before they hatch. I want the money in the bank before I start cashing checks," King-Hinds added.

Tudela suggested having a conditional approval of the 72 hours.

Torres suggested that the motion can be to approve the return of eight hours within the next pay period after certification of the receipt of funds for the allotment.

Reyes then made a motion as Torres suggested. The directors then voted to approve the motion.

Starting March 29, 2020, all CPA employees have a 64-hour work schedule after the board approved a 16-hour reduction as CPA estimated revenue loss due to COVID-19 pandemic climbed from \$3.9 million to \$6.5 million.

TALKS

From Page 1

rate interview, King-Hinds said that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the council have been hard at work in putting together a plan on how to get the tourism industry back online.

"They're talking about creating this travel bubble that they're looking to get back online sometime in the summer," she said.

King-Hinds said she can't really say definitively when is the target date is for reopening the CNMI to international flights. "But, obviously, even if you say, 'It just depends on the demand,' there's a lot of ifs, there's a lot of an indeterminate

factors at this point," she said.

King-Hinds said CPA can't rely on those projections or that plan at this point as CPA wants to see actual numbers.

King-Hinds said she has been hearing that the targeted markets for the planned summer travel bubble are Taiwan, Korea, and Japan.

She said the plan is to basically try to get both the airlines and the hotel industry to communicate with each other to work on a plan to create an incentive program, "now that the government has received some additional assistance from the federal government to try to find a way to basically incentivize the resumption of the tourism industry."

CANCELLED

From Page 1

walk to the top of Mount Tapochau every Good Friday in remembrance of Jesus Christ's journey before his crucifixion.

"For obvious reasons, unfortunately we will not be able to proceed with the walk up Mt. Tapochau

this year due to the pandemic. Until things clear up, it is hard to say when we'll be able to," said Rev. Fr. Jason Granado, rector/pastor of Mount Carmel Cathedral and San Jose Parish.

In addition to this, the "Sunrise Mass" on Easter Sunday, which is also regularly held on Mount Tapochau has also been cancelled this year, according to the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

MISSING

From Page 1

3:10pm yesterday.

In a separate statement, DPS said they first received a call at 11:06am on Tuesday that Martin was missing. DPS police officers met with the caller who said that Martin had not been home since last Sunday at around 4pm.

DPS said that Martin's neighbors have also not seen her since Sunday.

It was learned that Martin's family initially did a search of several popular beaches upon realizing that she was missing and when they still couldn't find her, that's when they called DPS.

DPS said the caller notified them

that Martin was often at popular beach spots. Martin's family has been checking the beaches since Monday morning.

Pangelinan said that DPS units have been checking the usual spots that Martin frequently visits but, as of 3:10pm yesterday, she has yet to be found.

According to DPS, Martin was last seen wearing a T-shirt, a traditional *mumu* skirt (yellow, black, and green), and a blue jacket. She reportedly has schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

DPS advises the public to call 911 if they have any information about Martin. "Her safety is of utmost concern to the department and her family members. Our officers are here to help," said a DPS statement.

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--	---	--	--	--

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VOX POPULI

In-person classes or virtual learning?

By NEIL FAMA
neil_fama@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students transitioned this week from remote (online) classes to blended learning—a combination of online and face-to-face classes. So we asked them what their experience has been so far and what learning method they prefer.

“I much preferred virtual learning only. I feel like I’m risking my life every time I physically go on campus, plus taking only online classes makes for a much more flex-

ible schedule.”

—Mike Oxlong,
Marianas High School

“With blended learning I feel like I don’t really have enough time, and I’m uncomfortable with everyone not using masks. I prefer going back to virtual learning rather than face-to-face learning.”

—Vivien Liu,
Marianas High School

“I can learn virtually, but the experience isn’t good enough. I much rather have face-to-face classes completely back, so that

my assignments can get proper feedback from my instructor. Plus, I would have an easier time observing and analyzing my group mates for our Psychological Profile assignment.”

—Jaehoon Son,
Marianas High School

“I know that most students are leaning more toward face-to-face because they want to see their friends and I know many people who say they learn better in a face-to-face environment. I’m personally feeling a bit ambivalent, but I think I’m an unusual case because

I learn equally, if not more by myself, so I actually don’t mind online classes from an academic perspective. In terms of safety, there were some teachers not even wearing masks, which is concerning, but for me, it isn’t that big of a deal. I think it’s better to be safe than sorry, but I would understand if other students prefer face-to-face and I don’t mind either too much. ...Some students I know think it [virtual classes] is okay because they ‘aren’t going to die,’ but I don’t think that’s the point of remote learning. I think the policies were set

in place to cease spreading the virus itself so I think just because the result of more community spread is so massive, it might be better to continue remote learning. But, if they resume face-to-face learning, I would attend regardless because I wouldn’t want to miss out on coursework.”

—One An,
Marianas High School

“I prefer online class because I have more freedom and am a bit concerned about going face-to-face due

to the pandemic.”

—Byul An, Saipan
Community School

“I’d rather stick to online because I’m more comfortable with it.”

—Hui An, Saipan
Community School

“I prefer on-campus learning because I like the feeling of being more involved or engaged in physical interactions, and actually feel like I am learning.”

—Glaine Cepeda,
Marianas High School

Easter egg decorating contest and egg hunt

The Rotary Club of Saipan will be hosting a community Easter egg decoration competition and an Easter egg hunt this Saturday, April 3, at the Sugar King Park (across Gold’s Gym and Garapan Central Park), from 9am to 12pm.

The egg decorating contest is for high school students (ages 14 to 18). Register at <http://bit.ly/2QLRTeD>.

The guidelines are:

- Must be a boiled egg
- You may use any form of medium (paint, crayons, etc.)
- There is no theme for this contest: you may be creative

in your submissions

■ Open to only high school students (must show school ID)

■ Registration starts at 9am; judging will begin at 10am

For the Easter egg hunt, it will be divided into age groups: Toddlers (age 1 and 2); pre-school (ages 3 to 5); elementary (ages 6 to 10); and middle school (ages 11 to 13). There will be designated egg hunt areas per age group. Toddlers will be assisted by parents. Parents are advised to arrive early before start time.

Wear a face mask; watch your distance; wash your hands. **(PR)**

 **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC RFP 2021-008

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: May 03, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Architect-Engineer Services for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program Infrastructure Projects

The Request for Proposal and Scope of Work is available on April 01, 2021 at the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net and at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com by clicking on the “Procurement Tab”.


Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing or email to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net or submitted by facsimile to (670)234-9021 no later than 10:00 AM local time on April 23, 2021.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

 **REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** in MVA’s Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- Preliminary Matters**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
 - Regular Board Meeting – March 11, 2021
- Public Comments**
- Committee Reports**
 - Fund Status
 - Travel Bubble
- Old Business**
 - Personnel
 - Budget
 - COVID-19 Vaccination for MVA Employees
 - MVA-Taiwan
- Executive Session**
- Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- Adjournment**

/s/ Gloria Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

 **DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB21-MOT-061

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 26, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“TINIAN DOG KENNEL RENNOVATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE TINIAN MAYORS OFFICE, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, TINIAN & THE TINIAN LIAISON OFFICE, NAVY HILL RD., SAIPAN. A \$100.00 NON-REFUNDABLE FEE IS FOR THE PROJECT PACKAGE WILL BE ASSESSED.

A PRE-BID MEETING AND SITE INSPECTION FOR THIS PROJECT IS ON **APRIL 12, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME** AT THE PROJECT SITE, SAN JOSE, TINIAN.


QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MRS. RAENA CABRERA, PROJECT MANAGER, VIA EMAIL TO rcing10@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **APRIL 14, 2021**. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE GIVEN DEADLINE WILL **NOT** BE ENTERTAINED.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ EDWIN P. ALDAN
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS.

 **DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP21-OPD-063

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 19, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

“TINIAN ZERO WASTE STUDY AND PILOT PROJECT FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR – OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MR. A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG**, VIA E-MAIL AT kodop.uludong@opd.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, APRIL 05, 2021**. ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

 **DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP21-OPD-062

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 19, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

“COMPREHENSIVE INTER-ISLAND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR – OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****


QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MR. A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG**, VIA E-MAIL AT kodop.uludong@opd.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, APRIL 05, 2021**. ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

 **PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

ITB21-CHCC/FACILITY-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 19th, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

“PROCUREMENT OF SURVEILLANCE CAMERA SYSTEM”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Korean American Cable Vision Inc., a CNMI corporation was dissolved on September 30, 2016. Korean American Cable Vision Inc. filed articles of dissolution with the CNMI Registrar of Corporation on March 29, 2021. This notice is being published in accordance with 4CMC 4607.

Any creditor and person with outstanding claims against the Company is requested to notify the corporate office as soon as possible.

The claim may be sent to:
Korean American Cable Vision Inc.
P.O. Box 502948,
Saipan, MP 96950

The President

UOG receives clean audit and low-risk auditee status

The University of Guam has received a clean audit opinion from independent firm Deloitte & Touche with no material weaknesses and no material compliance findings. The Office of Public Accountability has commended UOG on its sixth consecutive year qualifying as a low-risk auditee.

In the fiscal year 2020 audit report by Deloitte & Touche, UOG posted a 7% increase in revenues from \$95 million in 2019 to \$101 million in 2020. However, UOG's operating expenses also increased by 13%, from \$91.1 million in 2019 to \$102.7 million in 2020. The report attributed this increase in expenses to new requirements in governmental accounting standards and to the awarding of CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds to students.

"A clean audit and six consecutive years as a low-risk auditee are testaments to the university's dedication to fiscal responsibility and integrity," said UOG president Thomas W. Krise. "Throughout the pandemic, we have continued to focus on our mission, which has also meant managing additional federal funds through the CARES Act and provid-

ing nearly \$8 million in direct grant aid and reimbursements to students."

UOG received \$4.5 million in CARES Act HEERF funds in fiscal year 2020 with 50% going directly to students for emergency financial aid grants and 50% for the institution. Later in the year, UOG received an additional \$2.28 million for student aid and \$4.67 million for the institution to address costs related to responding to the pandemic, which include student and faculty support for online learning and health and safety protocols for the campus.

Of the \$101 million in revenues in fiscal year 2020, \$36.5 million came from GovGuam appropriations, \$33.7 million came from federal grants and contracts, and \$13.7 million came from tuition and fees. The remaining \$16.1 million came from different sources, such as auxiliary revenue and local contracts.

The report noted that GovGuam appropriations for UOG's general operations have decreased from \$30.7 million in fiscal year 2018 to \$27.6 million in fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year 2020 to \$25.1 million in fiscal year 2021.

Despite this decline in appropriations, the report also referenced UOG's recent economic impact study, which indicated that UOG contributes nearly \$40 million in free tax

receipts to government revenues—almost \$13 million more than what it received in appropriations for general operations in fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year 2020.

"The annual decrease in base funding for general operations has posed a significant challenge over the last few years," Krise said. "Our government and the island receive a significant return on investment from UOG. We believe that the University of Guam is

key to the island's economic recovery from the pandemic, and we are hopeful that our base funding will improve as the island recovers."

The audit report is available on the Office of Accountability website at www.opaguam.org. (PR)

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

The CDC director fears 'impending doom.' You should too

It's like a flashback to a bad fever dream. A year after COVID-19 ravaged New York City, infections there are creeping up again and in other hot spots across the country, despite the largest vaccination push the nation has ever undertaken. The average number of COVID-19 cases recorded over the previous seven days has risen 10% in the past week, and hospitalizations are ticking up as well. Rising numbers of new infections in New Jersey, New York and Michigan are worrisome.

These signs of a coming fourth wave of COVID-19 prompted a rare moment of emotion Monday from one of the country's leading infectious disease fighters. "Right now, I'm scared," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky said during a COVID-19 briefing, adding that she's having recurring feelings of "impending doom." Walensky urged people to remain careful for just a few more weeks, pleading: "Please hold on a little while longer."

We can see why she's so concerned. With the prospect of millions more COVID-19 vaccine deliveries rolling out in weeks to come, states have been shucking mask mandates and dropping restrictions as if the pandemic were over. On a recent Friday, more people traveled by airplane in the United States than on any day since the national emergency was declared. The spring break crowds got so out of hand in Miami Beach that city officials declared a state of emergency and curfew.

Look, we are feeling optimistic too. The end seems close; as Walensky put it, "We have so much to look forward to, so much promise and potential of where we are, and so much reason for hope." But shortsighted thinking could so easily force us backward in the critical race against a deadly disease that has killed about 550,000 people in the U.S.

Falling behind even a little comes with grave consequences. And not just because of the sickness and death that comes with it. As scientists have been warning for months, continued spread of the virus allows greater possibility of new, more drug-resistant or more deadly strains. Although the U.S. has made admirable headway on inoculations, with 28% of Americans having received at least one dose (and with new research showing that after two weeks, even a single shot provides 80% protection from COVID-19), this is no time to relax.

California, which suffered its worst surge earlier this year, is still on a good track. The average number of positive test results in the previous seven days is just 1.6%, and we can keep it low by making the right decisions now. That will require continued vigilance by everyone even when it seems the danger is passing, as well as sustained efforts by state and local authorities to distribute vaccines in hardest-hit communities, which suffered disproportionately from COVID-19 yet had the least access to the vaccine during the first weeks of the rollout.

For that reason, it's a little worrisome that the federal government is planning to shut down two mass vaccination operations in California, at Cal State LA and the Oakland

See CDC on Next Page



"WOULD YOU MIND HOLDING THIS FOR ME?"

Have we lost the battle on climate change?

I pay moderate attention to my carbon footprint. You probably do, too. It just seems like the right thing to do.

I recycle. I drive a Prius. My house has solar panels. My yard is xeriscaped. I support green energy. I never vote for politicians who, head in the sand, contend that climate change is a hoax.

And I never bothered to have children, avoiding the projection of my carbon footprint into the future in an exponentially increasing size.

You may be doing all of this or even more. Good for both of us. But have you noticed that whatever we're doing doesn't seem to be working?

The failure can be described in a number of ways: The persistent increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The disappearing glaciers. The increasing global temperature. The extreme weather. The drowning polar bears. And so on.

In fact, the proposition that all of us working together can save the environment by making small changes in our lifestyles has probably always been doubtful. The forces that nudge the globe's weather in one direction or another are massive. They're unlikely to be much affected by a minority of eco-friendly individuals, no matter how well-intentioned.

Unfortunately, national and international attempts at climate remediation have been halting and half-hearted, and at present they appear to be less effective than individual efforts. The Biden administration is rejoining the Paris Agreement on climate, but at best that accord is modest and nonbinding. And our nation's commitment to the agreement is so weak that only a few thousand votes separate us from an administration—former President Donald Trump's—that essentially rejected the idea that climate change is real.

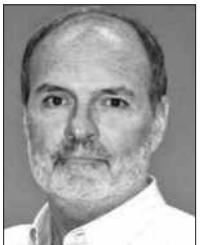
Does this mean that the climate change battle is lost? I suspect that it does.

Our capacity to address climate change effectively is undermined by humankind's essential myth: the notion that the earth's resources are unlimited and that, therefore, any amount of growth and consumption can be sustained.

Until recently this misconception has worked reasonably well. The elemental story of human civilization is the depletion of local resources and then migration to new ones. This was fine when mankind consisted of a few nomads roaming the planet. When Europe was full we crossed the Atlantic to a New World. As our east coast began to overfill and wear out, we kept moving

By **JOHN M. CRISP**
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcol-umns@gmail.com or the United States.



west. Eventually, we dabbled in colonialism, absorbing Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Philippines. Now we're fantasizing about colonizing Mars.

As we push up against the world's geographical limits, we've extended our ability to extract Earth's resources more efficiently, which has allowed us to maintain a corollary myth, the idea that all of our energy problems can be solved by better technology.

But one dangerous result of all this myth-making is complacency, and there's not much middle ground between complacency and resignation.

Eventually we will have to accept the reality that growth cannot be unlimited as long as our resources are finite. This would require a sea change in human psychology. Are we willing to accept a life with less of the comfort, pleasure and self-indulgence that are provided by burning fossil fuels?

The Nobel Prize-winning writer Isaac Bashevis Singer thought that humankind was capable of profound paradigm shifts. One of his examples was human cleanliness. He said that when he was young—he was born in 1903—going to the theater meant enduring the acrid stench of unwashed human flesh. Now we take showers more than once a week. Singer took this dramatic transformation of human behavior as evidence of the possibility of less trivial changes in our attitudes toward, for example, race or homosexuality.

I hope he's right. Unfortunately, we may find it easier to clean our bodies than to clean our atmosphere. The break-even point between our ever-growing consumption and the earth's capacity to support it is closer than we think because, for the most part, we avoid thinking about it, at all. And, paraphrasing Albert Einstein, because we can't change the way we think "we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe."

How the ‘Build Back Better’ plan can benefit US territories

Editor's note: The following is the author's written testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources' oversight hearing on "How the Biden Administration's Build Back Better plan can benefit the U.S. territories." It is being published as a series due to its length. The first part was published on March 26, 2021; the second on March 29, 2021; the third, on March 30, 2021; the fourth, on March 31, 2021.

Last of a series

One program that fit this design was a significant component of the CNMI's Covenant agreement with the United States. Section 701 of this agreement states that the United States government will "assist the government of the Northern Mariana Islands in its efforts to achieve a progressively higher standard of living for its people as part of the American economic community and to develop the economic resources needed to meet the financial responsibilities of local self-government."

To fulfill this commitment the United States put forward an effort to provide Capital Improvement Project funds toward the creation of a modern infrastructure that would support the advancement of the CNMI people. In administering this program, the Office of Insular Affairs has aided the Commonwealth in phenomenal advancements over the course of our recent history, but the structure of the program is in dire need of review and modernization to keep pace with the increased

costs of infrastructure.

Funding provided to this program has been locked at \$27.72 million since its inception for the CNMI in 1978 under Section 701 of U.S. Public Law 92-241 and continued at this level when it was modified to include Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands under U.S. Public Law 104-134. The CNMI once again urges the review of the CIP Grants Program to allow for an increase in the budgeted amount that adjusts for inflationary costs and current infrastructure needs of the U.S. territories.

Federal funding is but one crucial avenue for financing the infrastructure priorities of the CNMI. For communities around the United States, access to the capital markets provides access to crucial financing to support large-scale capital investments that spur economic growth. The CNMI has not issued any new debt since fiscal year 2007, allowing our public debt to decrease from 16 to 8% of GDP. However, despite low indebtedness and a strong track record of repayment, access to the capital markets is limited by our size, economic volatility, and prevalence of devastating natural disasters. Adjusted and consistent schedules for CIP allotments have the potential for being adequate security for public debt that can support more rapid advancements of our islands' infrastructure in coordination with the goals and objectives of OIA and the federal government.

The CNMI has made great strides in the overall improvement of its infrastructure over a relatively short period of time. That said, there is still a significant amount of work to be done to bring our infrastructure into the 21st century, from accessibility to po-

By RALPH DLG TORRES

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Ralph DLG Torres is governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

table water to a viable public transportation system and less reliance on unsustainable and non-renewable energy sources. The people of the CNMI, hardworking folks who are used to struggle and hardship, are also deserving of a modern infrastructure that supports economic development, a better quality of life, safety and health, and consideration of the health of the environment. The "Build Back Better" initiative is an opportunity to address many of the longstanding concerns of the CNMI that are specific to our ability to better manage our economic development and make a real investment in the infrastructure of the CNMI and the lives of its people.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my written testimony on the "Build Back Better" infrastructure initiative. I am in full support of the initiative and look forward to working closely with the administration of President Biden to see this landmark initiative fully implemented.

Facts ignored in attacks on Asian Americans

At least it's permissible to question the conclusions of federal law enforcement again.

During the Russia investigation and afterward, officials like FBI Director Christopher Wray were put on a pedestal by Democrats and the media.

Now, Wray has occasioned sharp Democratic dissent by stating that the horrifying murder spree at Atlanta-area spas that killed six Asian American women wasn't racially motivated.

Tammy Duckworth, the Democratic senator from Illinois, said in response to Wray that she wanted to see a deeper investigation, "It looks racially motivated to me." The new Democratic senator from Georgia, Raphael Warnock, agreed, "We all know hate when we see it."

These are evidence-free objections to an FBI evaluation that we have every reason to believe is based on the best-available facts.

All indications so far, including the perpetrator's statement as related by the police and reporting about his background in the press, suggest that he was struggling with a sex addiction, visited massage parlors for sex, and carried out his attacks as, by his perverse reasoning, vengeance against the parlors as the occasion for his temptation.

What he did is unforgivably awful, heartbreakingly destructive, and, of course, profoundly hateful.

It's just not the right kind of hate to fit a woke narrative of white supremacists targeting Asian Americans in a frenzy of racism fueled by former President Donald Trump's use of terms like "the China virus" and "Kung Flu" during the pandemic.

There has been an ongoing effort to link the spa shootings to a trend of increasing hate crimes against Asian Americans. There is much still to learn about this phenomenon. It may have peaked last spring with the onset of the coronavirus and certainly appears to be driven by several big cities, especially New York City, Los Angeles and the Bay Area. But this broader trend doesn't appear to fit a neat woke narrative, either.

For one thing, many attacks against Asian Americans clearly aren't acts of white supremacy, or even incidents of racial hatred.

It is an unfortunate feature of big American cities at the moment that not much explanation is needed for attacks against anyone other than a rising tide of lawlessness. That surely accounts for some significant percentage—if by no means all—of the attacks.

A high-profile stabbing of a Chinese man in Manhattan in February was carried out by a troubled 23-year-old man from Yemen. Despite pressure from Asian American activists, prosecutors declined to charge the assault as a hate crime after they found no evidence that it was.

By RICH LOWRY

King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

The suspect in the killing of Vicha Ratanapakdee, an elderly Thai American who died after being brutally pushed to the ground in broad daylight in San Francisco in January, is a 19-year-old Black man.

Last March, an Asian American woman was assailed on a bus in the Bronx by a group of Black teenage girls who accused her of spreading the coronavirus. There can be no doubt about the racial element of this assault, but the perpetrators belonged to one of the demographic groups in America least likely to be influenced by Trump or to favor white nationalism.

A New York Times story on attacks in New York referred to the awkwardness when the attackers are other minorities. It noted that some Asian American community leaders "say tougher enforcement could end up pitting Asian Americans against Black and Latino communities, inflaming racial tensions." The head of a Chinese social services agency told the paper that "many of his Asian colleagues were verbally harassed during the pandemic but chose not to alert law enforcement because they worried the perpetrators, who were often people of color, could be mistreated by the police."

None of these complications are allowed to interfere with a simplistic narrative of Asian Americans as victims of white supremacy, no matter what the facts are, no matter what the hitherto unassailable FBI director says.

For presidents, falling is failing

Here we go again.

Joe Biden stumbled and fell as he stepped onto Air Force One. And that has generated all kinds of stupid jokes and commentary questioning his strength and fitness for office.

As a person with disabilities, this frustrates the hell out of me because it shows how many of us still swallow the nonsense that one's fortitude, respectability, and competence have something to do with how well one walks.

Donald Trump was captured on camera last year when he had trouble maintaining his balance as he walked down a ramp. Barack Obama once tripped slightly as he stepped out of Air Force One. Bill Clinton took a tumble at the home of his golfer friend, Greg Norman, and ended up needing knee surgery. He walked around on crutches for a few weeks. And of course Gerald Ford was a legendary pratfall artist. He practically needed a stuntman.

It would be easy to put together a wacky, fast-motion montage of presidential stumbles with a musical score of Yakety Sax, more commonly known as "The Benny Hill Theme." It's possible that someone already has.

When a president stumbles, the footage goes viral. And then comes the damage control, where the president's image-building apparatus goes into an all-hands-on-deck mode to reassure us all that, contrary to appearances, he is unscathed and still very much in charge.

After Biden's fall, White House Communications Director Kate Bedingfield quickly pronounced the President "just fine." She said it was, "Nothing more than a misstep on the stairs."

She probably felt compelled to underscore the obvious because, as usual, some people were relishing the opportunity to read way too much into it. Donald Trump Jr. tweeted a video of Biden's fall and said, "No wonder all our enemies are pouncing simultaneously and mocking him publicly."

Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., tweeted, "Joe Biden exudes weakness."

By By MIKE ERVIN

Progressive Media Project



Mike Ervin is a writer and disability rights activist living in Chicago. This column was produced by The Progressive magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.

I blame all of this silliness on that classic cliché image of presidents ascending into Air Force One. We've all seen it many times. Before beginning his journey up what seems like thousands of stairs, the president turns and waves. Then he jauntily scales the stairs with a confident spring in his step. When he reaches the summit, he turns and waves again before entering the plane. All presidents are expected to execute this basic duty flawlessly.

Whenever I see this, I think about how I board a plane for a commercial flight. In the jetway, two or three people lift me out of my motorized wheelchair and strap me from head to toe into this narrow chair that looks like a hand truck with a seat. (Yes, it's as uncomfortable as it sounds.) They then roll me backwards down the narrow aisle to my seat and lift me again.

If I were president, that's how I'd board Air Force One. Two or three people would lift me into a similar chair and haul me from the tarmac up the steps.

Alas, that would never do. Such a sad, undignified display of weakness, vulnerability, and incompetence would pose a grave threat to national security. Our enemies could well see it as their opportunity to bomb the Pentagon and get away with it.

That's a sure-fire way to know if a president is wounded and weak: They don't walk pretty.

CDC

From Page 8






Coliseum, on April 11, just four days before the state opens access to shots to everyone older than 16. The sites were launched in February in partnership with the state as part of a larger campaign to focus on inoculating Black and Latino Americans. As part of the effort, the sites got a separate supply of doses on top of the state's regular allocation.

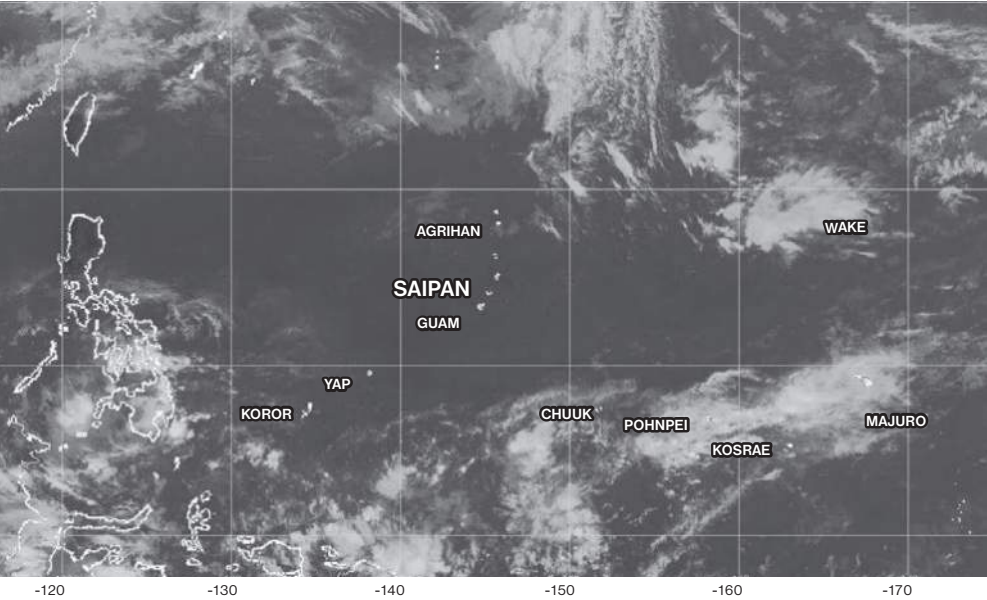
It may not be necessary to keep those locations running as is. In Los Angeles, for example, Dodger Stadium could do thousands more shots if it had a large enough supply. But officials must remain focused on especially vulnerable communities, and state and local authorities should insist that the federal government continue to dedicate extra doses to meet those goals at least for a few more months.

President Joe Biden, who is urging the governors and mayors who lifted their mask mandates to reimpose them (good luck with that), characterized this moment as a race against time to stop another terrible wave of COVID-19 from flooding the U.S. He's half right. It's a race, but against human nature.

(c) 2021 *The Los Angeles Times*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:40 AM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers is prevalent across portions of the Marianas and its coastal waters. The latest buoy observations show waves in the 5 to 6 feet range at Ritidian and Tanapag, with a water temperature of 83 degrees at both.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

seconds.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Rain	86 77 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 77 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86 71 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84 80 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84 79 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86 80 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:11 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:10 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:09 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:53 AM	10:07 PM
Friday	-	9:45 AM	11:11 PM
Saturday	-	10:42 AM	-
Sunday	12:14 AM	11:40 AM	-
Monday	1:13 AM	12:40 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	72 62 °F	
Beijing	Mostly sunny	68 44 °F	
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	77 70 °F	
Honolulu	Sunny	84 71 °F	
London	Cloudy	61 52 °F	
Los Angeles	Sunny	83 57 °F	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	92 78 °F	
Melbourne	Mostly sunny	81 51 °F	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	83 68 °F	
New York	Partly cloudy	60 34 °F	
Osaka	Cloudy	57 45 °F	
Paris	Partly cloudy	67 47 °F	
Pusan	Partly cloudy	58 34 °F	
Rome	Sunny	65 45 °F	
Salem	Rain	54 43 °F	
San Francisco	Sunny	66 55 °F	
Seoul	Sunny	60 35 °F	
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	56 41 °F	
Washington, DC	Partly cloudy	64 37 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:13 AM	Low Tide	0.77	
9:39 AM	High Tide	1.96	
4:42 PM	Low Tide	-0.16	
11:21 PM	High Tide	1.87	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021			
DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,
ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>			

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

The Friends of the Mariana Trench is excited to announce that student registration has been extended to April 9 for Project HOPE (Healthy Ocean & People Empowerment), an ocean science program for CNMI sixth graders funded by a grant from the Administration of Native Americans and made available through a partnership with the Public School System. There is no cost for student participation. Registration is open through April 9. Orientation will be held April 12 and is mandatory for all participants. Learning will begin on April 19.

Project HOPE learning sessions will take place weekly for approximately eight weeks of activities. Environment and Natural Resources Organization students, together with ocean elders, will work closely with outreach specialists that will engage sixth-graders in a six-hour hands-on learning sessions every Monday at the Guma Sakman in Susupe. Students will also participate in a stewardship project of their own creation, which will span the duration of the program. Project HOPE will conclude with weeklong ocean camp held June 14-18 in coordination with Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance and 500 Sails.

"The goal of Project HOPE is to make a crucial and complex subject like ocean conservation more accessible to our students," said FOMT executive director and Project HOPE director Laurie Peterka. "We believe that by creating fun, hands-on ocean science activities and incorporating local community members from multiple generations, we can help our students envision themselves as the CNMI's next

Project HOPE returns for spring



File photo shows participants of the Friends of the Mariana Trench's Project HOPE (Healthy Ocean & People Empowerment), an ocean science program for CNMI sixth graders. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



File photo shows Project HOPE students engaging in hands-on learning at the Guma Sakman in Susupe. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

wave of ocean protectors."

Project HOPE learning teams consist of ocean elders, college students, and sixth graders. FOMT is pleased and grateful to acknowledge those who are continuing or joining us for our second cohort. Returning for a second round in our ocean elders circle we welcome back Antonio U. Pailug, Joseph A. Omar, and Frances Sablan and joining us for spring will be Oscar Sablan and Tony Pangelinan. In support of our ocean elders, Project HOPE

sessions will be facilitated by Northern Marianas College ENRO students Dhalian Alvarez Salas, Catherine Tanseco Calma, Eloise Lopez, Anela Duenas, Richelle Ramon, and Mathew Richardson.

"I want to thank PSS principals and science teachers for working diligently alongside FOMT to ensure that students and parents can easily register for Project HOPE," said project coordinator Joseph Villacrusis. "Anyone interested in registering can contact

FOMT or find the appropriate information and forms on the FOMT website."

Inspired by the desire to improve our sixth graders' ACT Aspire test scores, Project HOPE uses experiential learning to increase students' understanding of experimental results, inferences, evaluation of models and analyzing data. Our weekly ocean science learning sessions also

combine traditional cultural methods and Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics principles to promote ocean conservation stewardship; local elders with a lifetime of ocean expertise participate in ocean science activities right along with CNMI sixth graders.

Weekly engagement sessions as well as the ocean camp are structured with appropriate social distancing protocols in place to protect all participants' health as much as possible. Our COVID-19 protocols are based on guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and PSS. These guidelines worked well in our fall session and we are

confident that they will continue to serve the needs of our program, especially protecting all the individuals involved.

Because the global outbreak of COVID-19 prevented FOMT from initiating the program in spring 2020 as planned, the Project HOPE fall 2020 program was open to seventh grade students (school year 2019-20's sixth graders) and our spring 2021 program is for sixth grade students.

You can obtain information from your school's principal or contact Villacrusis at (670) 483 - FOMT (3668). For more information, you may also visit our website at friendsmarianatrench.org or email us at info@friendsmarianatrench.org. **(PR)**

FOR RENT

- (1) 2-bedroom apartment
- (1) 2-storey apartment

Location: Chinatown
Price range: \$300-\$400
If interested, feel free to call
989-9916 or 287-2644

LOOKING FOR STAY IN NANNY/HOUSEKEEPER

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Job location: Guam
Please contact Rani at shivran10@gmail.com or +1671-686-8348.

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)

Has an opening for

Accountant

Core Responsibilities:

- Demonstrate and execute accounting controls and principles.
- Maintain accurate general ledger and preparing month-end P&L and financial statements
- Work and collaborate with a small team.
- Complete and manage daily site audits for accuracy.
- Complete bank account reconciliations in a timely manner.
- Prepare timely BGR tax reports.
- Accurately interpret financials and data.
- Manage business using Quick Books accounting program.
- Must learn NAV POS and Backoffice system.
- Adhere to and meet strict reporting deadlines.
- Manage Accounts payable and Accounts receivable
- Reports directly to the owner.

Core Skills:

- Must demonstrate excellent Microsoft Word, Excel and QuickBooks skills.
- Must demonstrate ability to effectively in English communicate verbally and in writing.
- 5 years accounting experience on Saipan.
- Must have a 4-year accounting degree.
- On island references & police clearance required

E-mail Resume and References to islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com and deltaspn@pticom.com

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Email Address: kkinghinds@gmail.com
Attorney for Petitioners
Magdalena Manglona Hofschneider
Donald Manglona Hofschneider

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF HENRY CARL VILLAGOMEZ HOFSCHEIDER, Deceased.
Civil Action No. 21-0083-CV
NOTICE OF HEARING ON VERIFIED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF COADMINISTRATORS
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho
Date: April 15, 2021, Thursday
Time: 10:00am

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE HENRY CARL VILLAGOMEZ HOFSCHEIDER OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioners Magdalena Manglona Hofschneider and Donald Manglona Hofschneider, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Henry Carl Villagomez Hofschneider, Decedent. The attorney for Petitioners is Kimberly Kay King-Hinds, Law Office of Kimberly Kay King-Hinds, whose address is P.O. Box 64, Tinian, MP 96952.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Magdalena Manglona Hofschneider and Donald Manglona Hofschneider, as Petitioners, is scheduled to be heard on April 15, 2021 at 10:00am, at the Tinian Court House, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the Decedent or his Estate are required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to Kimberly Kay King-Hinds, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2021.

/s/
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Office of the Secretary of Public Works

ENERGY DIVISION

P.O. Box 500340, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4480 / Fax No. (670) 664-4483 / e-mail: cnmienergy@gmail.com



PUBLIC HEARING

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Governor in cooperation with the Department of Public Works/Energy Division Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) will be conducting a public hearing to present the proposed WAP State Plan for Program Year 2021 and is inviting the General Public to attend this important Public Hearing.

The public hearing will be held at the Energy Division office located on Capitol Hill, House No. 1337 on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Individuals who are unable to attend the public hearing in person may submit written comments to the Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House No. 1337, Saipan or by e-mail to cnmienergy@gmail.com or by mail to P.O. Box 500340, Saipan, MP 96950 on or before close of business on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

Copies of the Draft State Plan will be made available at the Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House No. 1337 beginning Thursday, April 01, 2021.

For more information, you may contact Thelma B. Inos, Energy Director, at 664-4480/81 or you may visit the Energy Division Office on Capitol Hill, Monday to Friday, except holidays, and from 07:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

HINEKKUNGUK PUPBLIKU

I Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha gi Ufisinan Gubietnu yan i ko'operasion i Dipattamentun Che'chu' Pupbliku/Dibision Energy gi Prugraman Asistensian Weatherization (WAP) para u makundudukta hinekkunguk pupbliku ni para u mapresenta i manmaproponi na WAP State Plan para i Prugraman i sakkan 2021 yan ha kumbibida i Pupbliku Henerat para u ma'atendi esti na impottantn Hinekkunguk Henerat.

I hinekkunguk pupbliku para u makundukta gi Dibision Energy, giya Capitol Hill, Numirun Guma' #1337, gi Mattes, Abril 13, 2021, gi oran alas 5:00 gi pupuengi. Todu indibiyuati siha ni ti sumina umatendi i hinekkunguk henerat siha muna'halum tinigi' upiñon siha guatu gi Dibision Energy, Capitol Hill, Numirun Guma' 1337, Saipan pat i email guatu gi cnmienergy@gmail.com pat na'hanao i kattam-mu guatu gi P.O. Box 500340, Saipan, MP 96950 gi pat antis di u mahuchum i ufisina gi , Metkoles, Abril 28, 2021.

Kopia siha gi Draft State Plan para u mana'guaha gi Dibision Energy, Capitol Hill, Numirun Guma' 1337 tinituhun gi Huebes, Abril 01, 2021.

Para mas imfotmacion, siha un agang si Thelma B. Inos, Direktot Energy, gi 664-4480/81 pat siha un bisita i Ufisinan Dibision Energy giya Capitol Hill, Lunis asta Betnis, fuera di holidays, yan gi oran alas 07:30 gi egga'an asta alas 04:30 gi dispues di talu'ani.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP

Bwulasiyol Sow Lemelem loll Commonwealth wol Teel Faluw kka Faluwach Efang Marianas fengal me alilisil Bwulasiyool Public Works/Energy Division Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) e bwe ayoora eew arongorong reer toulap bwele e bwe apasa rel pommol WAP State Plan rel Program Year 2021.

Arongorong yeel e bwe fis me rel Energy Division me Capitol Hill, House #1337, wool Mwaatis, Seeta 13, 2021, ottol 5:00 p.m.

Schokka rese tawe re bwe fiti arong yeel, e mmwel schagh u bwe iischilong maafiyomw rel Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House # 1337, Seipel: ngare e-mail ngali: cnmienergy@gmail.com me ngare afanga ngali P.O.Box 500340, Seipel, MP 96950 wool me ngare mmwal igha ebwe tittilo ottool angaang wol Merkulis, Seeta 28, 2021.

Kkopiya Draft Plan yeel nge emmwal rebwe bweibwogh me Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House #1337, wool Wepis, Seeta 01, 2021.

Rel kkapasal, e mmwel ow bwe falingi lo llemwaar ye Thelma B. Inos, Energy Director, rel 664-4480/81 me ngare igha u bwe mwette lo rel Bwulasiyol Energy Division ye e ilo Capitol hill, Luunis mwette ngali Bennis, saabw holidays, me ottool 07:30 a.m. ngali 04:30 p.m.

/s/ **James A. Ada**
Secretary of Public Works

Business

PIC's Magellan Restaurant reopens for Easter

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Magellan Restaurant of Pacific Island Club Saipan in San Antonio invites everyone to get a table and celebrate Easter Sunday with a family style brunch that will surely make the weekend memorable. After almost two months of going on a break, Magellan Restaurant is ready to serve good food with special Easter treats in tow.

According to Sales and Marketing manager Katy Hung, PIC is bringing business back. "...we are excited about the reopening of Magellan's Sunday Brunch starting on April 4 Easter Sunday..." Over the years, Magellan Sunday Brunch is always the to-go place for local family gathering to enjoy delicious food and have a memorable Sunday break with loved ones," she said.

"This Easter Sunday, Magellan is prepared with special menu that includes crab legs, roast beef, whole fish, and more cold and hot dishes,

served with unlimited wine, champagne, and other alcoholic beverages and soft drinks. Dessert menu is yet to be revealed but it will be festive related," she added.

PIC closed early this year for economic reasons due to the pandemic. In an earlier interview, PIC general manager Gloria Cavanagh said that shutting down PIC at this time was a business decision. "We were suffering an additional loss with the opening of the hotel and a portion of the waterpark, so we would have to plan carefully. The additional loss was not a lot, but we need to reserve our capital," said Cavanagh.

However, things are taking a turn for the best because Hung said that Magellan's reopening will be followed by the re-opening of Seaside Grill effective next week for locals who missed spending happy hour there. Seaside Grill serves beer, cocktail drinks, and smoothies for non-alcoholic drinkers. They are also known for delicious happy hour food such as their fresh ceviche, lumpia, tapas, and more.

"This Sunday, PIC will also prepare an Easter Egg Hunt game for all dine-

For reservation and inquiries, call 234-7976 Ext. #2 (Tuesday-Saturday, 8am-6pm)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Magellan Restaurant reopens on Sunday for Easter Sunday Brunch.

in guests without additional admission fee. The event will start from 12:30pm on Sunday... Magellan's Easter Sunday Brunch is \$39/adult and \$19.50/

child. For the regular brunch, special discount price is available for local residents, which is \$30/adult and \$15/child," Hung added.

For reservation and inquiries, call 234-7976 Ext. #2 (Tuesday-Saturday, 8am-6pm) or email reservations@picsaipan.com.

'Lighting a fuse': Amazon vote may spark more union pushes

What happens inside a warehouse in Bessemer, Alabama, could have major implications not just for the country's second-largest employer but the labor movement at large.

Organizers are pushing for some 6,000 Amazon workers there to join the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union on the promise it will lead to better working conditions, better pay and more respect. Amazon is pushing back, arguing

that it already offers more than twice the minimum wage in Alabama and workers get such benefits as health care, vision and dental insurance without paying union dues.

The two sides are fully aware that it's not just the Bessemer warehouse on the line. Organizers hope what happens there will inspire thousands of workers nationwide—and not just at Amazon—to consider unionizing and revive a labor movement that has

been waning for decades.

"This is lighting a fuse, which I believe is going to spark an explosion of union organizing across the country, regardless of the results," says RWD-SU president Stuart Appelbaum.

The union push could spread to other parts of Amazon and threaten the company's profits, which soared 84% last year to \$21 billion. At a time when many companies were cutting jobs, Amazon was one of the few still hiring, bringing on board 500,000 people last year alone to keep up with a surge of online orders.

Bessemer workers finished casting their votes on Monday. The counting begins on Tuesday, which could take days or longer depending on how many votes are received and how much time it takes for each side to review. The process is being overseen by the National Labor Relations Board and a majority of the votes will decide the final outcome.

What that outcome will be is anyone's guess. Appelbaum thinks workers who voted early likely rejected the union because Amazon's messaging got to them first. He says momentum changed in March as organizers talked to more workers and heard from basketball players and high-profile elected officials, including President Joe Biden.

For Amazon, which employs more than 950,000 full- and part-time workers in the U.S. and nearly 1.3 million worldwide, a union could lead to higher wages that would eat into its profits. Higher wages would also mean higher costs to get packages to shoppers' doorsteps, which may

prompt Amazon to raise prices, says Erik Gordon, a professor at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business.

In a statement, Amazon says it encouraged all its employees to vote and that "their voices will be heard in the days ahead."

Any push to unionize is considered a long shot, since labor laws tend to favor employers. Alabama itself is a "right-to-work" state, which allows workers in unionized shops to opt out of paying union dues even as they retain the benefits and job protection negotiated by the union.

Kent Wong, the director of the UCLA Labor Center, says companies in the past have closed stores, warehouses or plants after workers have voted to unionize.

"There's a history of companies going to great lengths to avoid recognizing the union," he says.

Walmart, the nation's largest retailer and biggest private employer, has successfully fought off organizing efforts over the years. In 2000, it got rid of butchers in 180 of its stores after they voted to form a union. Walmart said it cut the jobs because people preferred pre-packaged meat. Five years later, it closed a store in Canada where some 200 workers were close to winning a union contract. At the time, Walmart said demands from union negotiators made it impossible for the store to sustain itself.

The only other time Amazon came up against a union vote was in 2014, when the majority of the 30 workers at a Delaware warehouse

turned it down.

This time around, Amazon has been hanging anti-union signs throughout the Bessemer warehouse, including inside bathroom stalls, and holding mandatory meetings to convince workers why the union is a bad idea, according to one worker who recently testified at a Senate hearing. It has also created a website for employees that tells them they'll have to pay \$500 in union dues a month, taking away money that could go to dinners and school supplies.

Amazon's hardball tactics extend beyond squashing union efforts. Last year, it fired a worker who organized a walkout at a New York warehouse to demand greater protection against coronavirus, saying the employee himself flouted distancing rules. When Seattle, the home of its headquarters, passed a new tax on big companies in 2018, Amazon protested by stopping construction of a new high-rise building in the city; the tax was repealed four weeks later. And in 2019, Amazon ditched plans to build a \$2.5 billion headquarters for 25,000 workers in New York after pushback from progressive politicians and unions.

Beyond Amazon is an anti-union culture that dominates the South. And unions have lost ground nationally for decades since their peak in the decades following World War II. In 1970, almost a third of the U.S. workforce belonged to a union. In 2020, that figure was 10.8%, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Private sector workers now account for less than half of the 14.3 million union members across the country.

Stimulus payments headed to Social Security recipients soon

Social Security recipients and other federal beneficiaries who don't normally file a tax return should expect their coronavirus relief payments soon.

The federal government began distributing the third round of economic impact payments in mid-March to millions of Americans. But a paperwork delay temporarily held up payments to Social Security, Supplemental Security Income and Railroad Retirement Board beneficiaries who did not file a 2019 or 2020 tax return or did not use the tool made available on IRS website for non-filers.

The IRS said Tuesday that it expects payments will be sent to those beneficiaries on April 7.

The government needed updated beneficiary information to begin distributing the latest round of payments. After receiving data from the Social Security Administration on Thursday, the IRS began review-

ing, validating, and testing tens of millions of records to ensure eligibility and proper calculation of the payments.

If no additional issues arise, the IRS said it expects to complete that work and to begin processing these payments at the end of this week. Because the majority of the payments will be disbursed electronically, they would be received on April 7.

The IRS updates its Get My Payment tool for eligible individuals once their payment is processed. The agency notes that the tool on IRS.gov will not be updated until this coming weekend with information for federal beneficiaries expecting payments next week.

The IRS said it is still reviewing data received for Veterans Affairs benefit recipients and expects to determine a payment date and provide more details soon. (AP)

Nation

GOP governors ignore Biden's latest plea on mask mandates

President Joe Biden's pleas for states to stick with mask mandates to slow the spread of the coronavirus were being largely ignored Tuesday as several Republican governors stayed on track to drop the requirement in their states.

Biden and the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said a day earlier that this is no time to relax safety measures.

In a call with governors on Tuesday, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky buttressed that message by citing "concerning" national trends: The seven-day average of 61,000 new COVID-19 cases per day is up 13%, and the seven-day average of deaths is up 6%.

But Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced Tuesday he is dropping the state's mask mandate immediately, a day earlier than previously announced.

"We made our decision in Arkansas based upon the criteria we set," said the Republican, who last month set targets for test positivity and hospitalizations in order for the state's requirement to expire. "This is a goal we had. We achieved that, so we stuck with the principle that was outlined."

The number of new reported cases in Arkansas was 79 on Monday, according to the CDC, part of a downward trend.

On the other end of the spectrum, Michigan has seen a steep rise in cases. That prompted Democratic Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to ask whether the White House has considered surging additional vaccines to states with rapidly



In this March 21, 2021, file photo, an usher holds a sign reminding fans to wear masks during a college basketball game between Houston and Rutgers in the second round of the NCAA tournament at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

increasing infection rates.

Jeffrey Zeints, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, replied that officials are "thinking through how to address hot spots." He promised to do everything to support Michigan in its "difficult situation."

Staying the course is a "tough message" to communicate, White House press secretary Jen Psaki acknowledged.

"It's important for people to hear that we're still in a war with this virus, and people still need to be vigilant in order to return to normal," Psaki told reporters Tuesday.

As more vaccines are deployed—with the nation on track to deliver 200 million doses overall by Wednesday—whether to enforce the wearing of masks has become the latest partisan focal point in the battle against the virus.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey intends for her state's mask mandate to end on April 9 as planned, though she urged people to wear masks as a matter of personal responsibility.

"We have made progress, and we are moving towards personal responsibility and common sense, not endless government mandates,"

said Gina Maiola, Ivey's spokeswoman.

The Republican-controlled Arizona Senate voted Monday to rescind its mandatory mask policy, and the House speaker made the same move on his own authority.

That action comes on the heels of Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey's move last week to lift remaining restrictions to curb the virus. The Republican's executive order allows businesses to enforce mask mandates and distancing requirements if they want, but cities, towns and counties must lift theirs.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, a Democrat, said he would appeal to his GOP counterpart in neighboring Indiana, Gov. Eric Holcomb, to reconsider dropping the state's mask mandate.

"My hope is he hears the president's call," Beshear said.

Oregon has one of the country's strictest mask requirements. Even high school athletes must wear them while running races.

Competitors in a race in Eugene, famed as a running mecca, have had to wear masks because the state has mandated masks be worn during

all practices and competitions for high school sports, the local Register Guard newspaper reported.

A handful of coaches from across the state petitioned Democratic Gov. Kate Brown and the Oregon Health Authority last month to make cross country exempt from the mask mandate. The appeal was denied.

"I've told my team to run at an effort that allows you to keep your mask on," Sheldon High School coach Ian Dobson said. "The rules are the rules. It's a horrible message to send if we say don't follow the rules."

"The other side to that—I think it's a stupid rule."

Scott Gottlieb, a former Food and Drug Administration commissioner under former President Donald Trump, said a surge of cases hitting Europe does not mean that a similar spike in infections will also happen in the U.S.

"Everything that happened in Europe eventually happened here. Now I think the tables have turned. We're ahead of Europe," Gottlieb told CNBC, citing higher immunity in the United States due to vaccinations and previous infections. He is a board member of Pfizer, which makes a COVID-19 vaccine.

Spain on Tuesday changed its mask-wearing policy to make them mandatory in all outdoor activities, including during exercise, in swimming pools or on beaches. Masks were already mandatory in all public spaces, including outdoors, when people could not maintain a distance of at least 5 feet (1.5 meters) between them. (AP)

Beyond bridges: Biden redefines infrastructure to add people

WASHINGTON (AP)—Beyond roads and bridges, President Joe Biden is trying to redefine infrastructure not just as an investment in America the place, but in its workers, families and people.

The first phase of his "Build Back Better" package to be unveiled Wednesday in Pittsburgh would unleash \$2 trillion in new spending on four main hard infrastructure categories—transportation; public water, health and broadband systems; community care for seniors; and innovation research and development, according to people familiar with the proposal.

Those would be paid for by permanently raising the corporate tax rate from 21% to 28%, the people said, which would unwind the lower corporate rate put in place by the

Trump administration.

The next phase would focus on soft infrastructure investments in child care, family tax credits and other domestic programs, paid for by tax hikes on wealthy individuals and families, they said.

Swelling to \$3 trillion or \$4 trillion, Biden's new package proposes a massive investment on par with the Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal or Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. Taken together, the administration's approach is transforming the old ideas of infrastructure investment into a 21st century concept that includes developing the human capital of America's population.

"He's talking about physical infrastructure and we're talking about human infra-

structure," Sen. Bernie Sanders, the independent from Vermont who is chairman of the Budget Committee, said in an interview Tuesday.

The president is set deliver a speech Wednesday outlining the size and scope of his plan, the administration hoping to take a more deliberate and collaborative approach with the lawmakers than it did on the emergency COVID-19 rescue package, Biden's first big priority to be signed into law.

At a private briefing Tuesday for the top lawmakers of both parties, the administration shared plans for the first phase with Democratic committee chairmen and the top Republicans on the panels, a nod to the White House's efforts at outreach and bipartisanship.

Migrant kids crowded into Texas facility as space runs low

DONNA, Texas (AP)—More than 500 migrant children were packed into plastic-walled rooms built for 32 people, sitting inches apart on mats with foil blankets Tuesday at the largest U.S. Customs and Border Protection holding facility for unaccompanied children.

Overall, CBP's main child processing center, a compound of white tents in Texas' Rio Grande Valley, held over 4,100 migrants, more than 3,400 of them children who traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border alone. The rest of the migrants being housed were families.

The facility, designed for 250 people under guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention during the coronavirus pandemic, has had to adapt amid a spike in families and unaccompanied children crossing the border.

The Biden administration allowed journalists to see conditions for the first time since the facility opened Feb. 9.

It was a grim picture.

A 3,200-square-foot (297-square-meter) space had been divided into several rooms for 32 children each under CDC guidelines, each separated by thick plastic walls instead of the chain-link fence used by previous administra-

tions. Despite the health recommendations, one of the "pods" held nearly 700 kids, another had nearly 600 and others had just above 500. Everyone wore masks, but COVID-19 tests aren't done unless they show symptoms.

Doors to the rooms were open for free movement but there was little room to roam and no one to play games. Most children just sat on the ground close together, chatting quietly. Some were wrapped in foil blankets. Lights are dimmed at night.

Children, most of them between 13 and 17, are separated by age. Families occupied a separate pod that was less crowded than the jam-packed rooms for older children.

A room for "tender age" children from 3 to 9 years old consisted of a walled playpen with mats on the floor and far more space than the eight pods for older children. An 11-year-old boy cared for his 3-year-old sister, and a 17-year-old cared for her newborn.

"I'm a Border Patrol agent. I didn't sign up for this," Oscar Escamilla, acting executive officer of the Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley sector, said while looking at the younger kids.

Asia

WITH NEW AIR ATTACKS IN EAST Myanmar junta deepens violence

MAE SAMLAE, Thailand (AP)—The military launched more airstrikes Tuesday in eastern Myanmar after earlier attacks forced thousands of ethnic Karen to flee into Thailand and further escalating violence two months after the junta seized power.

Thailand's prime minister said the villagers who fled the weekend airstrikes returned home of their own accord, denying that his country's security forces had forced them back.

But the situation in eastern Myanmar appeared to be getting more, not less, dangerous.

The Karen National Union, the main political body representing the Karen minority, said the airstrikes were the latest case of Myanmar's military breaking a ceasefire agreement and it would have to respond. The attacks came as protests continued in Myanmar cities against the coup Feb. 1 that ousted an elected civilian government and reversed a decade of progress toward democracy in the Southeast Asian country. Hundreds of civilians have been killed by security forces trying to put down opposition to the coup.

The U.S. State Department on Tuesday ordered non-essential U.S. diplomats and their families to leave Myanmar, expecting the protests to continue. The U.S. earlier suspended a trade deal and imposed sanctions on junta leaders as well as restricted business with military holding companies.

Tuesday's air raids in eastern Myanmar killed six civilians and wounded 11, said Saw Taw Nee, head of the KNU's foreign affairs department.

Dave Eubank, a member of the Free Burma Rangers,



An injured ethnic Karen villager from Myanmar rests as she is treated after crossing the Salawin river via boat at Ban Mae Sam Laep Health Center, Mae Hong Son province, Thailand on Tuesday March 30, 2021. T

which provides medical assistance in the region, provided the same information on casualties.

The KNU has been fighting for greater autonomy for the Karen people. It issued a statement from one of its armed units saying "military ground troops are advancing into our territories from all fronts" and vowing to respond.

"We have no other options left but to confront these serious threats posed by the illegitimate military junta's army in order to defend our territory, our Karen peoples, and their self-determination rights," said the statement, issued in the name of the KNU office for the district that was first attacked on Saturday.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, speaking before the latest air attacks, said his country is ready to shelter anyone who is escaping fighting, as Thailand has done many times for decades. His comments came a day after humanitarian groups said Thailand has been sending back some of the thousands

of people who fled.

"There is no influx of refugees yet. We asked those who crossed to Thailand if they have any problem in their area. When they say no problem, we just asked them to return to their land first. We asked, we did not use any force," Prayuth told reporters.

"We won't push them back," he said. "If they are having fighting, how can we do so? But if they don't have any fighting at the moment, can they go back first?"

The governor of Thailand's Mae Hong Son province, where as many as 3,000 refugees had sought shelter, said later that those still on Thai soil were expected to return to their own country in a day or two.

Protests against the junta continued in several Myanmar cities Tuesday despite its lethal crackdown that killed more than 100 people on Saturday alone.

Engineers, teachers and students from the technology university in the southern city of Dawei marched without incident.

Pakistan PM to India PM: We too want peaceful relations

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's prime minister has responded to a recent peace overture from his Indian counterpart, writing in a letter to Narendra Modi that Islamabad also desires peaceful relations with New Delhi, officials said Tuesday.

The exchange of letters between the two men was seen as a sign of easing tensions between the nuclear-armed South Asian neighbors.

Imran Khan's letter was dispatched to Modi a day ago, according to two government officials who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government policy. They

said Khan in Monday's letter called for the resolution of the dispute over the Kashmir region and all other outstanding issues between the two sides.

"The people of Pakistan also desire peaceful, cooperative relations with all neighbours, including India. We are convinced that durable peace and stability in South Asia is contingent upon resolving all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan, in particular, the Jammu & Kashmir dispute," Khan wrote in the letter.

He also conveyed his best wishes to India in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Khan's move came in response to a recent overture from Modi. The Indian premier in a letter congratulated Khan on his country's annual Pakistan Day, which commemorates March 23, 1940. On that day, the Muslim leadership in the eastern city of Lahore demanded independence from British rule.

The disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir is split between Pakistan and India but claimed by both in its entirety. The two countries have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since gaining independence from Britain in 1947.

World

Donors pledge more than \$6B to tackle Syria's crisis

BRUSSELS (AP)—The European Union, the U.S. and dozens of other nations pledged \$6.4 billion in aid Tuesday to help tackle war-ravaged Syria's deepening humanitarian and economic crises and assist neighboring countries hosting refugees, coming up short of the \$10 billion the U.N. had hoped for.

The promise of aid came on the final day of an annual conference co-hosted by the United Nations and the EU amid a worsening coronavirus pandemic. The conflict in Syria has entered its 11th year with no political solution in sight.

Announcing the total pledge, EU Crisis Management Commissioner Janez Lenarcic said that besides the grants, financial institutions and donors offered loans amounting to \$7 billion.

"A decade after Syrians peacefully took to the streets asking for freedom, justice and economic perspectives, those demands are still unmet and the country is in chaos," said Josep Borrell, the EU's top diplomat.

The EU said it committed to €3.7 billion (\$4.3 billion)

for 2021 and beyond, with €1.12 billion (\$1.31 billion) coming from the bloc's executive arm and €2.6 billion (\$3 billion) from the 27 EU member states.

The global pledges were lower than last year's total of \$7.7 billion. Before the conference, the U.N. and other aid groups had said they were seeking more than \$4 billion for aid to Syria, their biggest appeal yet. Another \$5.8 billion was requested for nearly 6 million Syrian refugees who fled their homeland.

A group of 37 aid agencies said they were disappointed.

"While we welcome countries' pledges that have kept their funding at similar levels to last year's or increased it, as did Germany, it is extremely disappointing to see two major donors, the UK and the US, turn their back on the plight of Syrians," they said. "This will have a devastating impact on their lives."

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield announced more than \$596 million in U.S. humanitarian assistance for 2021. The State Department said the aid will benefit

people in Syria and refugees in neighboring Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

The decade of bloodshed in Syria has killed more than a half million people and sparked an exodus of refugees that has destabilized neighboring countries and impacted Europe. According to the U.N., 13.4 million people in Syria—more than half the country's pre-war population—need assistance. That's a 20% increase from last year.

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, Syria's humanitarian situation has worsened. The local currency has crashed and food prices have soared—increasing by 222% from last year. Nine out of 10 people live below the poverty line and in northwestern Syria, an area that is held by the rebels, close to three-quarters of the 4.3 million residents are food insecure.

"The situation for Syrians in their own country and neighboring countries is worse than it has been at any time really over the previous nine years" U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock said. "There is less violence, but there is more suffering."

Leaders of Russia, France, Germany discuss global crises

MOSCOW (AP)—The leaders of Russia, France and Germany met by conference call Tuesday and discussed coronavirus vaccines, the Iranian nuclear standstill and the conflicts in eastern Ukraine, Libya and Syria.

The Kremlin said President Vladimir Putin also responded to questions about jailed Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny raised by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron in their "frank and business-like" video call.

In its readout of the call, the Kremlin noted that the three leaders talked about prospects for the registration of the Russia-designed Sputnik V vaccines in the European Union and the possibility of its shipments and joint production in EU nations.

The European Medicines Agency started a rolling review of Sputnik V earlier this month. Russia has been actively marketing Sputnik V abroad despite a slow pace of its rollout at home, in what some in the EU saw

as an attempt to score geopolitical points.

The offices of Merkel and Macron said in their readouts of the call that the three leaders discussed opportunities for cooperation in the vaccine sector in view of the EMA's evaluation of Sputnik V, which is carried out according to the same standards that apply to other vaccines.

While talking about the situation in eastern Ukraine, the three leaders emphasized that a 2015 peace deal brokered by France and Germany has no alternative, the Kremlin said.

It noted that Putin emphasized the need for Ukraine to honor its obligations to provide special status to the rebel regions as stipulated in the 2015 deal. Ukraine has pushed for amending the agreement, but Russia has staunchly rejected the push.

The fighting between Russia-backed separatists and government forces in eastern Ukraine erupted after Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea and has left more than 14,000 dead.

In its readout of the call, Macron's office emphasized the need for Russia to act resolutely to secure a ceasefire in the east that has been routinely violated.

The Kremlin's statement said the three leaders voiced hope that Libya's transitional authorities will help advance an inclusive political process in the war-stricken country.

All three also reiterated support for the Iranian nuclear deal and touched on the disastrous humanitarian situation in Syria, according to their respective statements.

In an exchange on Belarus, which has been engulfed by protests ever since the August re-election of the ex-Soviet nation's authoritarian president that the opposition rejected as fraudulent, Merkel and Macron spoke in favor of an inclusive national dialogue, according to their offices. In a statement reflecting Moscow's staunch support for the Belarusian leader, the Kremlin said that Putin warned against foreign meddling in the country's affairs.

Environment

By IVA MAURIN

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CORRESPONDENT

The environment is fragile and is in need of protection. It is especially true here on island, given the limited available land where food is grown, surrounded by the ocean with all the delicate corals and precious marine life.

Nature provides, everything is interconnected. We all need to be aware and mindful of how much of what we do impacts everything around us, and how the environment affects us.

Article I, Section 9 of the CNMI Constitution says, "Each person has the right to a clean and healthful public en-

» Do you understand why it is important to protect our environment?

vironment in all areas, including the land, air, and water," meaning, we all must be able to enjoy clean land, air, and water. But, with every right comes responsibilities. It is also up to us to make sure we have clean land, air, and water.

The CNMI is blessed for having solid indigenous knowledge that sustains the natural environment, with the respected elders who continue to teach, pass on sacred wisdom, and inspire the next generations.

We are also blessed to have farmers and fishermen, gardeners, who respect the land and waters, and ensure resources are sustained. We are all so privileged to have scientists and environment workers who research on corals, fish, wildlife, forests to ensure they are all protected. But most of all, we are fortunate to have each other, working together to keep the island healthy.

'Let's all work together'

April has been officially declared as Environmental Awareness Month here in the CNMI, and this year's theme is "A Clean Environment for a Healthy Community." And, on April 22, the CNMI will also be one with the rest of the world in the international Earth Day celebration.

In the proclamation, we are being reminded that through the Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act, policies are in place, including enforcement on environmental standards, 'to protect and preserve marine resources and uninhabited islands; to promote the highest attainable quality of life for all generations; to preserve, protect, and improve the aesthetic quality

A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

April is Environmental Awareness Month



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

It's Environmental Awareness Month! Help spread awareness on the importance of caring for and protecting our environment. Fun activities are lined up throughout April, including painting and recycling competitions, raingarden restorations, lab tours, eco-waving, and cleanups, so join in, participate, and help keep the CNMI clean and beautiful.

of land, air, water, and all natural resources of the CNMI.

All these so everyone who experiences the island can enjoy its beauty.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, in the proclamation this week, also recognized the work of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality in developing, implementing, and enforcing the policies set forth in the Act, as well as its partner agencies and organizations such as the Department of Land and Natural Resources-Forestry, Division of Fish & Wildlife, Historic Preservation Office, Northern Marianas College, the National Park Service, and the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

Palacios also stressed the need to reinforce our responsibility to maintain and protect our shared environment for the wellness and health of our community.

"Our environmental resources must be protected and improved to better sustain our island way of life, as well as benefit the CNMI's important tourism economy. Each of us must do our part daily to protect and conserve these vital and essential natural resources," he said.

"We assure the responsibility to ensure that Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands remain clean with bountiful natural resources for our present and future generations. It is our obligation; it is our privilege. Let's all work together."

Environmental awareness activities

Environmental awareness need not be boring, and so for this, a number of fun activities have been lined up for students and for the general public—including painting and recycling contests, lab tours, environmental expo, raingarden restorations, and



Marine debris that end on Saipan's beaches are picked up by a volunteer.

IVA MAURIN

cleanups—so we can all get involved and help spread more love for the environment.

But, first off, show your support for environmental protection and conservation by honking your horn as you drive by the BECQ office in Gualo Rai on Friday, April 9, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm, as staff and partners will be eco-friendly waving to kick off the celebration of the Environmental Awareness Month.

Here are the rest of the activities scheduled for the entire month, complete with details and persons to contact so you could join in!

I. Storm Drain Mural Painting Contest

Beginning April 9 with on-site painting on April 14

"Are you an artist who wants to make a difference?" This is an open invitation to all high school and college students! Submit your storm drain art to BECQ for a chance to win cash, plus the opportunity to paint your message in Garapan to raise awareness that improperly-disposed trash and other pollutants run-off from our watershed and into the ocean.

Prizes: 1st place (\$200), 2nd place (\$100) and 3rd place (\$75). Five others will

win "honorable mention" and \$50 each

The deadline to submit your artwork is on April 9. On-site painting in Garapan begins on April 14, and winners will be announced on June 8, to celebrate the "World's Oceans Day."

For this event, students will also receive Service Learning/Community Service hours. BECQ will provide the paint and other materials. To get the submission form and for more information, contact Olivia Tenorio at 664-8531 or email olivia.tenorio@becq.gov.mp

II. Recycling in the Marianas Competition Entire April with



Volunteers comb the beach to pick up trash.

IVA MAURIN

announcement of winners on April 30

All public and private schools in Saipan are invited to compete in Recycling in the Marianas, where at the end of the competition, schools that recycle the heaviest weight per category, will win some cash! Competition is all throughout April, and the winners will be announced on April 30.

Prizes: 1st place (cardboard: \$125), 2nd place (plastic water bottles: \$125), and 3rd place (aluminum soda cans: \$125)

To register your school, and for more information, contact Marlyn C. Naputi at 664-8545 or email her at marlyn.naputi@becq.gov.mp.

III. Lab Tours April 9, 16, 29, and 30

BECQ will be opening up their facilities for Lab Tours on April 9, 16, 29, and 30, to give students an insight on what it's like to work in a laboratory, to gain knowledge on the importance of testing our water quality, and to learn how to tell whether our beaches are safe to swim in.

To sign up for the Lab Tours, and for more information, contact Miso Sablan or Charito Bautista at (670) 664-8500, or email: miso.sablan@becq.gov.mp

becq.gov.mp or charito.baustita@becq.gov.mp.

IV. Virtual Environmental Expo (for all 5th graders) April 27-28 from 8am-11am (Tuesday and Wednesday)

All 5th grade students and educators are invited to participate in the Virtual Environmental EXPO where they can learn from natural resource groups who will be sharing presentations, or outreach materials virtually, on how to further protect our students during this public health emergency.

To register your school for the Expo, and for more information, contact Zabrina Shai via email at zabrina.shai@becq.gov.mp or call/leave a voice message at (670) 664-8512.

V. Raingarden Restoration (CLOSED Event)

Tanapag Elementary School, April 23

On April 23, Tanapag Middle School will be launching its Raingarden Restoration Project, to improve the school's capacity to capture storm water runoff, and mitigate erosion and its effects on land and nearshore habitats. Constructed to help control storm water, the raingarden also provides aesthetically-pleasing "green spaces" within communities.

With native wetland plant species used, the raingarden also serves as habitat for native species, and provides for an educational opportunity for Tanapag students. The project promotes Green Infrastructure, and is part of the Best Management Practices on island.

VI. Island Wide Cleanup (FREE and OPEN to public groups)

Registration ends at April 16, with cleanups on April 23 and 24

BECQ is inviting and encouraging community groups and organizations (school classes/clubs, sport/church groups, private organizations, and government agencies) to participate in the Island-Wide Cleanup, and help "pick up" trash in various locations throughout the CNMI.

Registration deadline is on April 16, no later than 4pm, and cleanups will be on April 23, from 3pm-4:30pm, and on April 24, from 8am-10am. To register, or for more information, contact Emma Iriarte (emma.iriarte@becq.gov.mp) and/or Mr. Austin Flores (austin.flores@becq.gov.mp) or contact them at 664-8500.

Life & Style

World's last Blockbuster more popular after Netflix show

BEND, Ore. (AP)—The Blockbuster video rental store in Bend, Oregon, soared to international fame when it became the last such franchise on Earth two years ago.

TikTok star on cellphone with fiancée as tree limb kills her

WATERVILLE, Maine (AP)—A motorist was talking on her cellphone to her future wife when powerful winds blew a tree limb onto her car and killed her, authorities said.

Rochelle Hager, 31, of Waterville, was an executive chef who posted popular TikTok videos and was engaged to be married this fall.

"It happened really quick," Brittanie Lynn Ritchie told the Morning Sentinel. "She has a phone mounted in her vent. I just heard a crash and then there was nothing."

Hager was driving in Farmington when a storm that produced gusts topping 50 mph (80 kph) toppled the tree limb and killed her instantly, authorities said.

Hager was the sole occupant, and no other vehicles were involved, said Farmington Police Chief Kenneth Charles, who called the situation "tragic and unique."

Hager and Ritchie were both popular on TikTok. Together, they had more than 400,000 followers. Ritchie posted a tearful tribute and said Hager "loved her TikTok fam."

Now, a new Netflix documentary called "The Last Blockbuster" brought even more interest in the form of visitors, mail and online orders to the unassuming location in a central Oregon strip mall 170 miles east of Portland.

Since the documentary aired March 15, people from all over the world have sent flowers and called the store just to say "thank you" for staying open. In the backroom, staff members have been busy packaging thousands of online orders for Blockbuster T-shirts, hats and face masks, which are all made by Bend businesses.

The movie focuses on the manager's day-to-day work running the store, which became the last in the world when the Blockbuster in Perth, Australia, closed two years ago. It was made by two local filmmakers who saw history and nostalgia in the store's perseverance.

"It's a little bit crazy, but it's a very good thing," store manager Sandi Harding told The Bulletin in Bend. "We'll take a little crazy if it means keeping the store open."



Harding is the star of the movie, which peaked as high as the No. 4 movie in the United States since it appeared on Netflix March 15.

The Blockbuster video rental store in Bend was already popular when it became the last location on Earth. It drew visitors from across the United States and as far as Taiwan and London.

"It's good for the store. It's good for the commu-

nity," said Harding, who has been stopped in the grocery store by fans who want to take her picture. "And I can learn to live with my newfound fame as long as it doesn't mess with what we are doing every day."

The two Bend filmmakers behind the documentary, Taylor Morden and Zeke Kamm, had no idea if the store would stay open when they started filming in 2017. Morden said

he has heard from people who call Harding a national treasure and say the store must remain open at all costs. He is pleased to know the film's attention on Netflix may be what keeps the store open.

"For us to have some small part in helping the store stay open is amazing," Morden said. "Not a lot of documentaries actually accomplish the goal of their story."

The Bend Blockbuster has

AP
In this March 11, 2019, file photo to Debby Saltzman, of Bend, Ore., poses for a photo, in front of the last Blockbuster store with her twin brother, Michael, visiting from Melbourne, Australia, in Bend, Ore. Taking the photo is Saltzman's husband, Jeremy Saltzman.

no plans to close. It has a steady lease agreement, and the local owners, Ken and Debbie Tisher, have leased the property since 1992, when it was a Pacific Video store. The store was franchised in 2000 and became a Blockbuster.

In its heyday, Blockbuster Video had 9,000 stores around the world. But in-store video rental stores began struggling with the rise in on-demand streaming services such as Netflix—the very streaming service now offering the Blockbuster documentary.

In 2010, Blockbuster declared bankruptcy, and by 2014, all corporate-owned stores had shuttered. That left locally owned franchises like the one in Bend to fend for themselves, and one by one, they closed.

Goldberg, Zendaya to be honored at Essence Hollywood awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Whoopi Goldberg, Andra Day and Zendaya will be among the honorees at this year's Essence Black Women in Hollywood event, which will be livestreamed during Oscars week for the first time this year.

Essence on Tuesday announced the honorees for

the 14th annual ceremony on April 22.

In addition to the Emmy-, Grammy-, Oscar- and Tony-winner Goldberg and "Euphoria" star Zendaya, they include actor, singer and songwriter Cynthia Erivo and actor Michaela Coel.

Day, who is up for an Oscar a few days later for playing

the title role in "The United States vs. Billie Holiday," will also perform.

"Orange Is the New Black" actress Laverne Cox is set to host the event whose theme this year is "Mastering Our Stories," with a focus on the resiliency of Black women in Hollywood throughout its history and through the pan-

demie year.

"Essence has demonstrated our commitment to highlighting the power and resiliency of Black women for 50 years, and part of that has included creating opportunities to uplift and recognize each other when no one else would," Essence Chief Strategy & Engagement Officer Latraviette D. Smith-

Wilson said in a statement announcing the honorees.

The event, since 2008 an invite-only luncheon held during Oscars week, will look and feel more like other awards shows in this incarnation, with a live-streamed ceremony at Essence.com and EssenceStudios.com starting at 7 p.m. EDT.

New wife can't stop thinking about husband's old girlfriend

DEAR ABBY: I'm a young wife. I married after three months of dating my military husband. He was previously in an on-again/off-again relationship that lasted about eight years, during which she had a baby with another man, etc. I believe my husband is still in love with her. After constantly asking him, he says he just wishes her well and he doesn't have any romantic feelings. I'm not sure what to do, and I just keep overthinking it. Any thoughts?

HATES HUSBAND'S HISTORY

DEAR H.H.H.: Stop torturing your husband—and yourself—by constantly asking him about his feelings for his unfaithful ex-girlfriend. Get to work building your self-esteem, and you will have less to worry about. Your husband's history (baggage) is his own. You are making a mistake by dragging it into your marriage. If you concentrate on the positive, you will have a happier marriage, and so will your husband.

DEAR ABBY: Shortly after a retired, not-so-close friend moved to another city, he began sending emails about events he had read about in social media, news outlets and magazines. At first there were only a few a day, but as the days increased, so did his emails. I responded to some of them, but he never commented on them. He just sent more and more to the point

that his daily emails are more than I can—or want to—read. I am spending too much time deleting them. What should I do? Should I ask him not to send them anymore, or should I stay quiet so as not to hurt his feelings?

INBOX FULL IN MISSOURI

DEAR INBOX FULL: Your friend may be sending these items because, as a retiree, he has little to do but cruise the internet for entertainment. It would not be rude to tell this not-so-close friend you don't have time to review all of the emails he has been sending and ask him to send fewer. It's the truth. However, if he doesn't comply and the barrage continues, feel free to block them or create a filter for these emails that sends them to a folder where they can be easily scanned and deleted.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 32 years often tells me women compliment him on his looks or the way he dresses. I compliment him often, but I think it's his way of telling me that he's still "got it" and I should be proud to have a husband who's hot and good-looking.

Am I crazy for not enjoying hearing what other women think? If anything, it has caused some insecurity on my part. I have asked him to stop sharing these comments and told him I'm tired of hearing them—especially since I have told him repeatedly what I think of him, his looks and his way of

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



dressings. Am I wrong?

LOVES HIM INSIDE AND OUT

DEAR LOVES HIM: I don't think you're wrong. But has it occurred to you that your husband may do this not out of ego but because HE is insecure? People who are secure within themselves do not feel the need to continually toot their own horns the way your handsome, stylish husband does. Try this: The next time he does it, smile, nod in agreement and tell him you agree with his admirer. And repeat as necessary.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

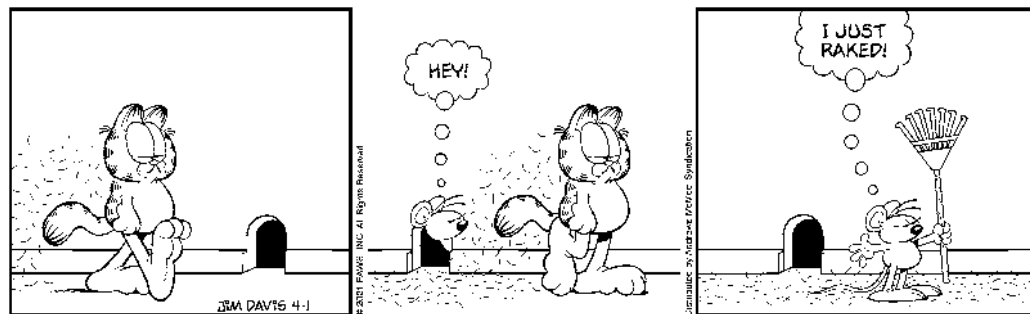
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



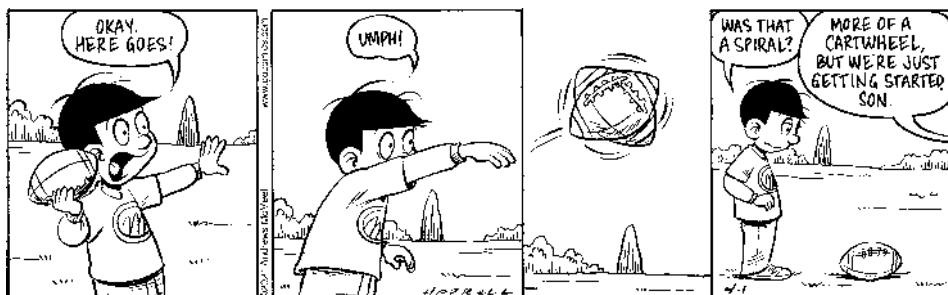
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



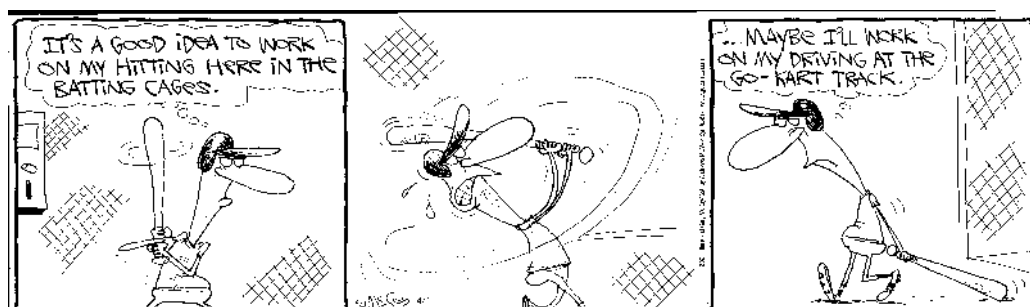
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Passing craze
4 — la Douce
8 Thompson of "Love Actually"
12 Farm female
13 Site of Apra Harbor
14 Entre —
15 Excrete
17 Deep cut
18 Savings plan acronym
19 How hordes move
21 Gerry-mander
24 Pooch
25 Flamenco cheer
26 Fitting rhyme for "spa"
28 Jazz genre
32 "If it — broke ..."
34 Dress (up)
36 Crème —
37 Twangy
39 Central point

DOWN

41 Solo of "Star Wars"
42 Pirate's chart
44 "Ta-ta!"
46 Member of a blended family
50 Goose egg
51 Art Deco master
52 Pride's place
56 — do- well
57 Actress Falco
58 Napoleon's title (Abbr.)
59 Della's role on "Touched by an Angel"

DOWN

1 Nourished
2 Shock partner
3 Dwellers
4 Big lizard
5 Scoot
6 Spiked club
7 Revise
8 Be-trothed
9 Extinct birds
10 Tousele
11 Tennis legend
16 Acapulco gold
20 Wild bunch
21 Reddish horse
22 Director Kazan
23 Dig in
27 Sweetie
29 Indebted
30 "The Good Earth"
31 Hunger indicator
33 Interferes (with)
35 Gloomy guy
38 Young bloke
40 Easter head-wear
43 Lost color
45 Fleur-de-
46 Faxed
47 Sloth's home
48 Summers in Paris
49 Queen of Carthage
53 Black gold
54 Punk-rock subgenre
55 "Fresh Air" ailer

Solution time: 24 mins.

B	E	T	A	I	M	S	V	I	E	W
O	V	O	N	G	A	E	S	S	O	
R	I	O	C	H	R	I	S	R	O	C
A	L	L	A	H	A	C	A	S		
			P	O	N	T	C	E	D	A
			G	U	B	E	R	O	O	T
			A	G	E	S	T	C	A	D
			S	L	A	M	C	A	R	R
			I	I	T	A	T	T	O	F
			D	A	B	A	K	I	T	A
			C	H	E	R	R	E	D	
			Y	E	T	I	E	I	R	E
			D	E	E	D	S	C	A	D

Yesterday's answer 4-1

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Asa Butterfield, 24; Hillary Scott, 35; David Oyelowo, 45; Susan Boyle, 60.

Happy Birthday: Share your enthusiasm this year. Step outside your comfort zone if it will help you get things done. Explore new places and pastimes. Check out what nature has to offer. Get back to the basics and enjoy life. Your ability to get things moving in a positive direction will give you the momentum and assistance that will help you excel. Your numbers are 9, 14, 19, 26, 31, 38, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Spend less and accomplish more. Put a budget in place, do the work yourself and bring about the changes that will make you feel good about your accomplishments as well as prospects. Romance and self-improvement projects are favored. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Open up, discuss matters that concern you and look for solutions that everyone favors. Getting along will be half the battle and will also help you dismiss the uncertainty and confusion that comes hand in hand with indecisiveness. Focus on the future. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be aware of what's going on around you and the limitations you face if you let others make decisions for you. Do your own thing, and make your decisions based on how you feel and what you can do. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be imaginative; put a unique spin on whatever job you are assigned. If you go the extra mile,

success is sure to follow. A partnership looks promising. Don't be afraid to make the first move. Use your money sparingly and effectively. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Learn from someone you look up to, and pitch in and help. What you do to make a difference will lead to opportunities to get ahead doing something gratifying. Romance is on the rise and will enhance your personal life. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Choose your battles wisely. You'll be much further ahead if you concentrate on bringing about the changes that will make your life better. Learn, experience and make adjustments that allow you to up your game. Don't get angry; get moving. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Connecting with people who have similar ambitions will help you reach your goal quicker. A partnership looks inviting as long as you keep things equal. Discipline and hard work will pay off, but letting others do something for you will not. ★★★★★

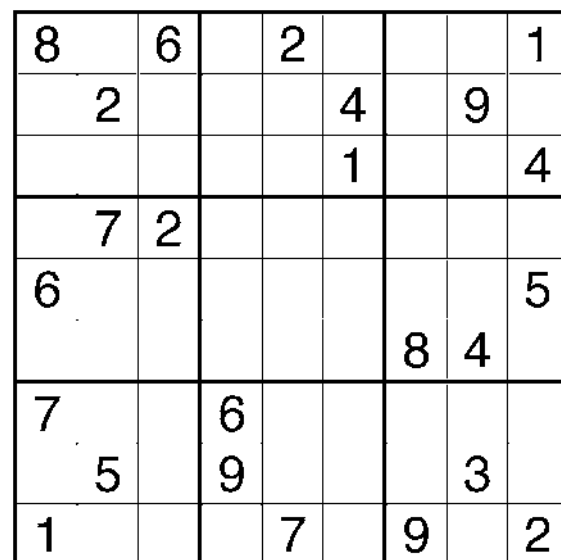
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Focus on what matters to you. Take care of money matters so you are free to do the things you want to do. Personal growth, educational pursuits and getting back to your roots will help dismiss indecisiveness. Trust your intuition. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your heart into something that matters to you. Personal and domestic improvements will pay off. Refuse to let an outsider interfere in what you are trying to accomplish. Moderation and discipline will help you excel. Romance is favored. ★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

4/01

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Share your thoughts, feelings and desires. Building a strong base with people heading in a similar direction will give you the strength, courage and resources to reach your destination. Let go of the past and those holding you back. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look at what you are capable of doing, and you'll find a way to use your skills to advance. Be inventive, and do your own thing. Physical fitness will ease stress and help you look and feel your best. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stick to the truth, and you'll avoid an awkward moment. Put your energy into self-improvement, fitness and a healthy diet, and it will help you avoid overindulgent behavior brought on by temptation and individuals who aren't trustworthy. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are playful, friendly and persistent. You are convincing and resourceful. ★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwards. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!

Solution: 8 letters

N O H T A R A M E N T O R N C
S D C Y O J M A F A M E O O O
Y T N T H A N E W S Z I N I M
B P A I E M A G C A S G E T P
I I P R K E V O M S R T V A E
R E D A E L L A A A A D O U T
T S E H C E A C P T R T L D I
H D G H E A C U B T R F L A T
D N R G R R L E R O R F I R I
A E E E E A L U F E T A R O
Y I E N T E S F E I C M W V N
R R T I G T E H D D L I A R
O F O C U S C W O R K L S L E
T N E M E V E I H C A Y E U N
S D E H S I L P M O C C A E M

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Accomplished, Achievement, Amaze, Award, Birthday, Card, Career, Celebrate, Charity, Cheer, College, Competition, Congratulations, Degree, Dream, Effort, Fame, Family, Focus, Friends, Game, Gift, Graduation, Grateful, Happy, Joy, Kind, Leader, Life, Love, Marathon, Mentor, Move, Music, News, Parent, Passion, Star, Story, Trust, Value, Wise, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Japanese Food

The NEW Treasury 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Magic rally in fourth, snap Clippers' six-game win streak



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chuma Okeke scored 18 points and the Orlando Magic rallied in the fourth quarter to snap Los Angeles' six-game winning streak Tuesday night, defeating the Clippers 103-96.

The Magic didn't have the lead until late in the fourth quarter and went on a 17-3 run to close the game and get their first road win since Feb. 12, ending a seven-game skid. Kawhi Leonard made a pair of free throws to give the Clippers a 93-86 lead with 2:36 remaining before the Magic scored 11 straight points to take the lead.

Terrence Ross tied it at 93 with 1:46 remaining on two free throws, and Wendell Carter Jr. put the Magic in front with 1:10 remaining with a tip-in after James Ennis III missed a layup, making it 95-94.

"This league is all about wins. We took a great step forward in the right direction," Carter said. "It definitely is a confidence booster going up against one of the best teams in the Western Conference and getting a win on the road." While the Clippers are one of the league's top teams, the Magic are a squad in transition. They traded five players — including their top three scorers — in three separate deals during last Thursday's trade deadline.

Coach Steve Clifford hasn't had much time to get some of the players acquired up to speed, but two had good games against the Clippers. Otto Porter Jr. scored 13 points, including eight in the final quarter, and Carter had 11 points.

"We have been a little bit limited in this stretch due to being on the road, but continue to add things, even if it is teaching them in a ballroom," Clifford said. "This is the style we are going to have to play. We have to defend and be smart."

Besides holding the Clippers to 32.7% shooting in the second half (16 of 49), the Magic outscored LA by 18 in the paint in the third and



AP
Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard (2) fouls Orlando Magic's Michael Carter-Williams (7) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 30, 2021, in Los Angeles.

fourth quarters (36-18) as well as having a 15-2 advantage in fast-break points.

Orlando made 22 of its 25 free throws for the game, including 11 of 13 in the fourth quarter.

Leonard scored 28 points for the Clippers. Luke Kennard added 17 points and Ivica Zubac tallied his 10th double-double of the season with 14 points and 13 rebounds.

After a 24-point win over Milwaukee on Monday night, and with Denver up next on Thursday, coach Tyronn Lue thought that his team was winded in the final 12 minutes.

"I thought we struggled from the beginning, honestly. But when you're down guys and you're on a back-to-back, I think it's just tough, trying to keep guys minutes down as much as we could," he said. "We missed a lot of shots and they got out in transition in the second half."

The Clippers scored the game's first 10 points — including a pair of 3-pointers by Kennard — and extended their lead to 16 points with under four minutes remaining in the second quarter.

LA led 51-37 at halftime on the strength of shooting 52.5% in the first half (21 of 40), but struggled in the third quarter, going 2 of 13 from beyond the arc as Orlando got within 73-

70 at the end of the quarter.

The Clippers were 16 of 49 from the floor in the second half, including 6 of 22 on 3-pointers.

"I felt like we got some good shots, got some good looks in that second half that just didn't fall," Leonard said. "But obviously, just being more aggressive, attacking us when we're missing shots, getting out in transition. They kept fighting. They didn't quit."

Suns 117, Hawks 110

In Phoenix, Devin Booker scored 21 points, Dario Saric added 20 and the Phoenix Suns held on in the final minutes to beat the Atlanta Hawks 117-110 on Tuesday night.

The Suns have won six of their past seven games, while the Hawks have dropped four of five. Phoenix's Jae Crowder added 19 points and made 5 of 8 of his 3-point attempts, including a huge one with 23 seconds left that sealed the win.

The late-game heroics were needed after the Suns let an early 16-point lead slowly slip away.

"Everybody wants a pretty win," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "I just want to win. You have to take them any way you get them."

Atlanta trailed for nearly the entire game until Trae

Young made two free throws to tie it at 103-all with 3:31 remaining, but the Hawks could never get the lead. Deandre Ayton's putback after a Booker miss pushed the Suns ahead 111-108.

Crowder splashed home a 3-pointer — while getting fouled — and finished off the four-point play with a free throw to give Phoenix an insurmountable 115-108 advantage with 23 seconds left.

"We closed the game out," Suns guard Chris Paul said. "But we shouldn't have been in that situation."

Ayton finished with 13 points and 14 rebounds, while Paul had 12 points and eight assists. Crowder had his stellar shooting night after making just 2 of 18 3-pointers over his previous two games.

Bogdan Bogdanovic led Atlanta with 22 points and Young had 19 points and 13 assists.

Nuggets 104, 76ers 95

In Denver, Jamal Murray scored 30 points, Michael Porter Jr. added 27 and the Denver Nuggets raced out to a 25-point lead on their way to a 104-95 win over the slow-starting Philadelphia 76ers on Tuesday night.

Nikola Jokic added 21 points for the Nuggets, who played in front of a home

crowd for the first time since the pandemic shut down the 2019-20 season in mid-March of last year.

"They made all the difference in the world for us," Murray said. "It was just good to have them back in the building."

Especially after the 76ers' backups made a late run to turn the blowout into a contest.

"We thought it was going to be easy," Jokic said after the Nuggets jumped out to a 44-22 lead after one quarter but watched the Sixers' second-teamers chip away in the second half.

Reserve Tyrese Maxey led the Sixers with 13 points, all in the fourth quarter.

The much-anticipated matchup between the East-leading Sixers and the rejuvenated Nuggets, who made the biggest headlines at the trade deadline with the additions of Aaron Gordon and JaVale McGee, quickly fizzled with Denver's first-quarter flourish.

Before the Nuggets took a 68-45 lead into the locker room, Jokic stepped up to the free throw line and was met by chants of "MVP! MVP! MVP!" from the first crowd at Ball Arena since the pandemic shut down the 2019-20 season more than a year ago.

The crowd consisted of employees of Kroenke Sports and

Entertainment and healthcare professionals who have been on the frontlines of the fight against COVID-19.

Hornets 114, Wizards 104

In Washington, Terry Rozier scored 27 points, Gordon Hayward had 26 points and a season-high 11 rebounds and the Charlotte Hornets beat the Washington Wizards 114-104 on Tuesday night.

Charlotte has won four of five after losing Rookie of the Year favorite La Melo Ball to a fractured right wrist.

Washington (17-29) played without NBA leading scorer Bradley Beal for the second straight game due to a bruised right hip. Rui Hachimura tied his career high with 30 points for the Wizards. Russell Westbrook had his 17th triple-double of the season and his third straight with 22 points, 15 assists and 15 rebounds. Robin Lopez had 16 points and 11 rebounds.

The Hornets, who improved to 24-22, went on a 16-2 run to take a 50-39 lead midway in the second quarter.

"They do a really good job of moving the ball," Lopez said. "In transition, getting open 3's. I thought we did a better job of guarding them in the second half, but it's tough when they're hitting 3's. We definitely could have been more locked in. I think we all agree there."

While Washington got within 98-95 with 4:12 to play, Charlotte pulled away to secure the win.

"We did it with our defense," Hornets coach James Borrego said. "I think we disrupted them fairly well on the defensive end."

Devonte' Graham scored 17 points and Cody Zeller had 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Hornets.

Zeller credited Rozier, who had seven points in the final four minutes, for the win.

We have confidence in him, and I know he has confidence in himself," Zeller said. "In the last few minutes, he makes big shots. He's been a great leader for us all year."

Dapper Labs, creators of NBA Top Shot, get \$305M in funding

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP)—Canadian blockchain technology company Dapper Labs has secured \$305 million in private funding — some of it from current and former NBA players, including Michael Jordan — to scale up its virtual NBA trading card site, the company said Tuesday.

Vancouver, British Columbia-based Dapper says NBA Top Shot has rung up \$500 million in sales and registered more than 800,000 accounts

since its public beta testing phase began in October.

The virtual cards come in the form of a floating digital cube that includes a video highlight of an NBA player and come with a non-fungible token, backed by blockchain technology, certifying its authenticity and scarcity. A LeBron James dunk highlight sold for \$210,000 recently but more common cards can often be had for less than \$10.

Besides the NBA, Dapper

partners include Warner Music Group, Ubisoft, and UFC. The company says the new round of funding will help it expand its NFT and blockchain products to a wide range of businesses.

"We want to bring the same magic to other sports leagues as well as help other entertainment studios and independent creators find their own approaches in exploring open platforms," said Dapper Labs CEO Roham Gharegozlou.

The most recent round of funding was led by New York-based private equity firm Coatue Management and brings Dapper's total capital raised to \$357 million.

Current players listed as investors in Dapper include Kevin Durant, Kyle Lowry, Spencer Dinwiddie and Klay Thompson. The company also says some current and former NFL and MLB players have put money in, as well as the rapper 2 Chainz.

Jazz charter turns back after striking birds on takeoff

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A Utah Jazz charter flight headed to Memphis had to return to Salt Lake City after the plane struck a flock of birds on takeoff.

No injuries were reported. The Jazz confirmed their Delta charter for Wednesday's game returned to Salt Lake City International airport shortly after takeoff.

Following the incident, several players expressed gratitude for the safe landing. Donovan Mitchell posted a praying hands emoji on Twitter, while Rudy Gobert wrote "It's a beautiful day!"

The Jazz were scheduled to play the Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday night.

Further details were not immediately available.

Zags stay undefeated with 85-66 win over USC

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Can anybody stop these guys?

For the 30th straight time this season, Gonzaga answered that question with a resounding “No.”

The Bulldogs got on a roll and put on a show, cruising into the Final Four with an 85-66 beatdown of a Southern California team that was nowhere near ready for what it ran into Tuesday night.

Drew Timme had 23 points and five rebounds and, after one dunk, pretended to slick down his handlebar mustache for the few thousand fans in the stands.

“This is a really, really big deal,” coach Mark Few said of the program’s return to the Final Four after a four-year hiatus. “And Zags know how to celebrate, OK?”

The top-seeded and top-ranked Bulldogs (30-0) will be the third team to bring an undefeated record into the Final Four since the bracket expanded to 64 teams in 1985. The last team to go undefeated was Indiana in 1976. On Saturday in the national semifinals, the Zags will face 11th-seeded UCLA, which beat Michigan 51-49 in a later Elite Eight game.

In the early contest, Timme



Gonzaga’s Drew Timme celebrates during the Bulldogs’ 85-66 rout of USC in the Elite Eight of NCAA Tournament on Tuesday at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Timme scored 23 points, leading Gonzaga to the Final Four for the first time since 2017.

They were clinging to a 50-49 lead when Michigan called a timeout with 19 seconds to go, intending to set up the game’s final shot. Wolverines coach Juwan Howard set up an open 3-point look for the cold-shooting Wagner, who missed almost everything, and Eli Brooks also missed a put-back before UCLA finally corralled the rebound.

It was merely the start of a chaotic finish.

The Wolverines quickly fouled and sent Juzang to the line, where he missed the second of his two free throws with 6.3 seconds left. Michigan grabbed the rebound and called another timeout. This time, Howard had Smith race up court and unload a good look from the wing that was halfway down before bouncing back out.

The buzzer sounded and UCLA began to celebrate, only for the officials to put a half-second back on the clock.

That was enough time for Michigan to inbound one last time to Wagner, who again let fly a 3-pointer that clanked off the iron — and finally gave the Bruins freedom to spring from their benches for their first Final Four trip since 2008.

“We got the look, got the shot we wanted,” Howard said. “There’s not much you can do with a point-five, but that shot, it was a nice little heave. Unfortunately it didn’t go in.”

Hunter Dickinson led the Wolverines (23-5) with 11 points, but nothing came easy for the Big Ten freshman of the year — or anyone else in maize and blue. They were 3 of 11 beyond the arc, shot 39% overall and couldn’t make one at the end.

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failed at his attempt at 121 kg.

In the clean and jerk, Barnhouse wowed the crowd with lifts at 130 kg and 137 kg before falling short at 145 kg.

His competitor, Calisao, coasted through the snatch, making lifts of 85 kg, 90 kg, and finally 95 kg.

Calisao also romped through the clean and jerk, with lifts of 110 kg, 114 kg, and last at 120 kg.

Also topping his weight class of 96 kg was Leonard E. Apelo. In the snatch, Apelo failed at his first attempt at 115 kg but redeemed himself in the second round before failing, again, at his attempt

did whatever he wanted against the nation’s fourth-ranked defense—a team that won its first three tournament games by an average of 21 points—as did pretty much everyone else in a white uniform.

Jalen Suggs finished with 18 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists. All-American Corey Kispert had 18 points and eight boards on an “off” night — only 6 for 19 from the

to lift 120 kg.

Apelo moved on to the clean and jerk where he made a lift of 145 kg before failing both attempts at 150kg.

In a short interview, Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation president John Davis said the second Marianas Cup Tournament turned out to be a great success and saw so much improvement.

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Davis said he was pleased with the turnout and the support of those who came out to watch.

Davis said for the next weightlifting events to come, he hopes to see even more support for the sport from the local community.

floor. Gonzaga shot 44% in the second half and “only” 50% for the game. That was five under its nation-leading average, but it didn’t matter much.

“We just tried to stay moving,” Suggs said about attacking the USC zone, which had been shutting down teams all month in Indy. “We didn’t let the ball get too sticky. We kept moving, flashing into the high post. It was a lot for them to deal with—good cuts off the baseline, vertical cuts off the wings.”

Blowouts are supposed to be boring, but this had the feel of a Globetrotters game at times, filled with fancy bounce passes through traffic, reverse layups, a swooping power dunk from Joel Ayayi (nine points) and the occasional post-basket flex from the 6-foot-10 Timme.

Gonzaga led sixth-seeded USC 7-0 after two minutes, 25-8 after 8:30 and 36-15 after Kispert took a nifty dish from Timme for an easy layup with 6:03 left in the half.

“It was a little surprising,” USC coach Andy Enfield said, “because we’d been playing great basketball.”

The Zags have a way about doing that to people.

UCLA 51, Michigan 49

In Indianapolis, UCLA has made more trips to the Final Four than any program but North Carolina.

None of the 19 was more surprising than this one.

After sneaking into the NCAA Tournament off four straight losses, and barely surviving Michigan State in their First Four game, the Bruins took down top-seeded Michigan on Tuesday night to continue a

Johnny Juzang poured in 28 points while playing most of the second half on a hurt ankle, and coach Mick Cronin’s bunch of stubborn overachievers survived a set of nail-biting misses by the Wolverines in the final seconds for a 51-49 victory that made the Bruins only the fifth No. 11 seed to reach the national semifinals.

“These guys get all the credit,” said Cronin, who had never been to the Elite Eight in 18 years as a college head coach, much less the Final Four. “Unbelievable heart, toughness. Nobody picked us. Nobody believed in us. That’s how we like it.”

They’ll be big underdogs again Saturday night: Overall No. 1 seed Gonzaga is up next.

“We know our next assignment is tough,” Cronin said, “but their resiliency is unbelievable.”

The Wolverines (23-5) missed their final eight shots, including a 3-pointer by Mike Smith with a couple seconds left and another by Franz Wagner at the buzzer, sending the Bruins (22-9) flying off the bench in a wild celebration.

They’re the second First Four team to make the Final Four after VCU a decade ago.

“This is something growing up you dream about,” said Juzang, the first player to score at least half of his team’s points in a regional final victory since Cincinnati’s Oscar Robertson in 1960. “It’s just so wonderful. It’s beautiful. It’s beautiful sharing this moment with your brothers.”

After dictating the pace all game, eschewing the slick style of Michigan in favor of a rock fight, it only seemed fitting that the underdog Bruins — having won two tourney games in overtime already — would take another to the buzzer.

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all standings making it into the Top 3 of the division after outshining them in their match last Sunday.

TanHoldings’ Jessica Ortizo took the lead for her team with a goal in the 26th minute. However, Matansa wrestled for the lead behind Tawny Barcinas who made a goal in the 31st minute to bring the game to a draw.

Mariquit Chavez made the defining goal, breaking the tie and turning the tables in TanHoldings’ favor, in the 41st minute.

MMA

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And if that’s not enough, their father Cuki announced that he will be the special guest referee when his sons step inside the eight sides, while her daughter, Sheniah, will be the ring girl.

In interviews held separately out of fear they would beat each other up before they do battle, the younger Alvarez stated that on top of his brother constantly picking on them growing up, he wants to show his sibling who is the better fighter.

“Alverick may be the only

one in the family who’s never lost a fight, but I’ve been the one carrying the family name in the ring the last several years both on and off-island,” Shane said. “Facing my brother will not only be one of the toughest fights I’ve ever been in, but beating him in the middle of the cage, will show him, our family, and the Marianas who truly is the better Alvarez,” he added.

Although Alverick is comfortable being away from the fight spotlight, he feels that he needs to put baby brother in his place.

“I love my brother and I will do what I can to back him

up and be there for him. “But when that cage door closes, and the bell rings, he’s just going to be another cocky fighter I need to set straight.”

When asked whether he would be impartial in his officiating, Cuki mentioned that he would, but added that “Whoever loses, I will disown. They won’t be worthy of carrying the family name, it’s going to be tough to do, but sorry *parri* that’s what’s gonna happen to one of my boys.”

On top of the Alvarez vs. Alvarez colossal collision, the undercard is equally impressive. Truth will battle justice as Trench Tech el-

der statesman Jason “Rush” Tarkong will take on MMA legend Brandon “The Truth” Vera in a five-round matchup Cuki calls “The Battle of the Boyus.” Also part of the undercard is the Japan meets Korea duel between “Korean Zombie” Chan Sung and original Trench Tech warrior Tetsuji Kato.

Meanwhile, as a special attraction, Marianas warrior and UFC star Frank “The Crank” Camacho will sign an open contract to face whoever is brave enough to challenge him. Cuki said that if the challenger knocks Camacho out in two rounds, he will win

\$25,000 in cash, which will definitely be a stimulus fund everyone will want to win.

Trench Warz 21 is scheduled to take place on May 32, with the venue to be determined later as organizers are still working on COVID-19 safety protocols. Weigh-ins will take place after off-island fighters complete their mandatory quarantine. Social distancing will be enforced and according to Cuki, anyone who does not wear a mask will be charged double admission at the door.

Excited for the return of MMA action? Buy your tickets now, April Fool’s Day.



Magic rally in fourth, snap Clippers' six-game win streak

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Zags stay undefeated with 85-66 win over USC

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Paire 1 remains undefeated

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Paire Football Club 1 remains undefeated in the Masters Division of the 2021 Dove Spring Women's League after outplaying sister team Paire 2, 2-0, in their match up last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Despite the slow start, Paire 1 managed to draw first blood over Paire 2 37 minutes into the game behind Natalie Hill-Beyer. Elizabeth Culp widened the gap in the 40th minute with a follow-up goal.

With another win in the bag, Paire 1 holds an undefeated record in the division with a 4-0 win-loss standing.



who scored a goal in the 22nd minute.

Kanoa fought to catch up in the 39th minute behind Lynzey Green who scored the team's only goal but their efforts were lacking.

Also contributing to the team's win was Marilou Ariola, Riane Capalad, and Alexandria Vergara each scoring one goal apiece.

DIVISION B Shirley's 5, Kanoa 1

Meanwhile, in Division B, Shirley's FC held on to its win streak for the fourth consecutive week in a row, after routing Kanoa FC, 5-1.

Shirley's grabbed the win behind Marrielle Gariguez's goal in the 16th minute with help from Jeraldine Castillo

Southern United 1, TanHoldings 0

Southern United rose to No. 2 in overall standings, demoting former spot holder TanHoldings to No. 3, after outdueling them in their match last Sunday.

Southern United prevailed over its foe in the 30th minute behind Keisha Deleon Guerrero who managed to land the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Paire Football Club 1 remains undefeated in the Masters Division of the 2021 Dove Spring Women's League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

only goal of the game.

MASTERS DIVISION TanHoldings 2, Matansa 1

TanHoldings managed to steal Matansa's spot in over-

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MMA returns via Trench Warz 21: Civil War!

By **DIRK DIGGLER**
CORRESPONDENT

It will be a "family feud" next month, as Trench Tech has announced that mixed martial arts will return to the island sports scene to kick off the summer of 2021.



According to Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez, when Trench Warz 21: Civil War! goes down next month, you can expect excitement and hard-hitting action with the main event bringing its share of soap opera-like drama. In a featherweight

matchup headlining the card, it will be former featherweight champion Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez taking on his older brother Alverick "Pretty Boy" Alvarez, who will put his undefeated record (5-0) in a classic Cain and Abel matchup.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brothers Shane, left, and Alverick Alvarez are locked in a stare down before they train for next month's Trench Warz 21: Civil War!

Limes prevails in Marianas Cup tourney

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Jason Limes topped the 109-kg-and-over weight class of the 2021 Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament held last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Limes prevailed in his class in the heavyweight division with a total lift of 222 kg over Tristan Muña who totaled 182.

In the snatch, Limes earned a good lift at 92 kg before moving on to 97 kg. Limes lifted 97 kg almost effortlessly but failed at his attempt to snatch 100 kg.

Immediately after positioning himself over the barbell loaded with his first set of weights, Limes' straight face showed he was deep in concentration and he meant business.

Limes came back for the clean and jerk and his solemn expression did not change. He managed to get good lifts in the 120 kg and 125 kg but, again, failed in the third round at 130 kg.

Limes' sole competitor, Muña, cruised through the snatch, making lifts in the 70

kg, 75 kg, and lastly in the 80 kg.

Muña kept the same pattern in the clean and jerk, perfecting all three rounds by making lifts in the 90 kg, 95 kg, and finally the 102 kg.

Meanwhile, in the 109 kg class, David Barnhouse remains the reigning champ with a total lift of 253 kg.



The defending champ topped his only challenger, Joey Calisao, who totaled 215 kg.

In the snatch, Barnhouse started off strong, making lifts of 111 kg and 116 kg and barely breaking a sweat. He struggled in the third round and

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KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

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